









# Thais held British girls after drugs tip from London

By MARK SOUSTER

THE parents of two teenage British girls held in Thailand on heroin smuggling charges arrived in Bangkok last night as it was confirmed that the girls had been arrested after a tip-off from intelligence sources in London.

From the time Patricia Cahill, aged 17, and Karyn Smith, aged 19, arrived in Bangkok they were followed by undercover Thai narcotics agents in an operation that illustrates the close co-operation between international agencies.

Thai police had been alerted by Customs and Excise, who had become suspicious about the flight arrangements made by the girls. They had bought air tickets direct to Bangkok with returns via Amsterdam, and the Gambia, well-known drug havens.

A source in London said yesterday: "The itineraries stuck out like a sore thumb, so Thai authorities were told to expect two girls from Britain who should be watched. It seems everything went like clockwork."

Miss Cahill, from Birmingham, and Miss Smith, from Solihull, were watched on their journey north and followed on their return to the capital. They were arrested at Don Mueang airport, Bangkok, with 67lbs of high-grade her-

oin allegedly hidden in their luggage in a variety of containers. The drugs have an estimated street value in the West of about £4 million.

The source said that it seemed the girls had been used as couriers, known as "donkeys", by professional drug barons in Birmingham, ruthless men who cared little for a courier's fate. They know from where and from whom to obtain large quantities of illicit drugs in the Golden Triangle region.

In Bangkok a narcotics officer confirmed that Thai police had information indicating that a drugs syndicate in the West Midlands was involved. John Francis, the British consul in Bangkok, said that he did not know if the girls had been duped into acting as couriers.

The girls were separated yesterday for the first time since their arrest on Wednesday night. Miss Smith was in reasonable spirits but Miss Cahill was very upset. She was transferred to the Ban Prae juvenile detention centre from the airport police station where both had been held.

A close watch was being kept on her. Her parents arrived last night accompanied by a reporter from a British national Sunday newspaper.

At Ban Prae, or House of Mercy, there are about 160 girls on remand for offences including drug-handling, prostitution and theft. Miss Cahill was given a medical check and urine tests to determine whether she was addicted to drugs.

Miss Smith will stay at the police station until she appears in the criminal court next week and will then be remanded in custody at Bangkok women's jail.

In a telephone interview from Bangkok, Miss Smith said yesterday that she and her friend had become entangled in drug smuggling unwittingly and had been duped by one of their boyfriends who was supposed to meet them at Bangkok airport.

Instead, she said, a Chinese man called Verno "came up to us and gave us \$100 each to book into the airport hotel". Miss Smith, who said she was being well treated by police and guards, said that at the hotel "we met this guy called Sean who gave us containers which he said had sweets and soap and stuff". He had asked them to take the containers to Africa, she said, because they had difficulty buying them over there.

"I took the lid off some of the big stuff and there was soap in there. I didn't think anything of it."

At the airport to catch their flight the girls were approached by a police officer before they reached customs who asked to check their bags.

"We went off with him, handed him our baggage and sat down and had a laugh about this and that," she said. "We thought it was funny because all they would find was crisps and things. When we saw the heroin I couldn't believe my eyes. I couldn't believe it was heroin. I have never done drugs in my life."

"I said, 'is that cannabis', and when I found out it was heroin I couldn't even speak. I was breathless. We realised we were in big trouble."

She said that she was so ashamed by what had happened she would rather have the death sentence than go back to England. "I would rather die. I couldn't go back to England with all this."

The conditions in her cell, which she shares with six other people, were disgusting. "We sleep on the floor, the toilet stinks, it is hot and it has got little creatures crawling around all over the place."



Karyn Smith smoking a cigarette in an exercise area of a Bangkok jail yesterday after her arrest at the airport

## Solicitor admits stealing £800,000

A SENIOR solicitor systematically stole more than £800,000 from clients' trust funds before fleeing to Switzerland, a court was told yesterday.

When he returned secretly to Britain several years later, Andrew Bingham threatened police officers and sprayed CS gas in their faces after they spotted him in Bath, Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Worsley told Knightsbridge crown court, west London, that Bingham, aged 50, moved large sums of money through corporate bank accounts as part of a laundering operation. Bingham continued to steal money even when the accountants Touché Ross were brought in by Bingham's firm, Theodore Goddard, to investigate the management of one of the trust funds.

Bingham, a father of three, who was struck off as a solicitor a year ago, pleaded guilty to 11 charges of stealing more than £586,000 from clients between 1984 and 1986. He also admitted securing by deception the execution of a £225,000 money order from one of the trust funds.

Mr Worsley said that only £178,000 of the funds had been recovered. He said that Bingham, who had lived with his wife in a manor in Fairseat, Kent, until they separated, was sued during 1986 and 1987 by clients seeking to recover their money. An order was eventually made against Bingham to return more than £200,000.

However, during the High Court proceedings Bingham fled to Switzerland where his family owned a flat. He stayed there for 18 months before secretly returning to Britain and using false names to avoid arrest.

In June last year he was recognised by police in Bath. When they approached him he threatened them with a craft knife and sprayed CS gas in the faces of two officers, the court was told. He ran off pursued by other officers and members of the public and was finally arrested.

Det Inspector Patrick Connelly, of the serious fraud squad, said that extensive enquiries had shown that Bingham had not salted away any money. He said that Bingham had no assets. The family home was owned by his wife and Bingham had also said that the flat in Switzerland was his wife's.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

## Electricity barrage may harness tides of Mersey

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A GOVERNMENT-backed private bill to build Britain's first electricity generating barrage across the Mersey is expected to be laid before parliament next year. The 700 megawatt installation, which would harness the tides to produce pollution-free power, could be the first of up to six similar schemes along Britain's western coastline.

In Liverpool yesterday, Tony Baldry, the energy under-secretary, announced the setting up of an exceptional ministerial committee to examine the wider social, environmental, employment, tourism and transport issues surrounding the Mersey barrage scheme. Opposition to the project has come from environmentalists, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, who fear the barrage would threaten the mudflat homes of wading birds and fish life in the estuary.

Concern has also been voiced by users of the Mersey and the Manchester ship canal, with fears that shipping on the river may be hampered during the construction of the

barrage. Companies which have invested heavily in industrial facilities along the river and canal are worried about the likely impact on business. The committee will examine these concerns, while establishing the prospects for jobs and urban renewal in the region.

The barrage has been seeking status as a renewal energy project within the government's electricity privatisation programme. However, it is now expected that the scheme will be designated a regional development project, with significant environmental and energy benefits. Mr Baldry also announced a further £1.5 million of funding to finalise engineering, sedimentation, river flow and foundation studies in preparation for the parliamentary stage.

Desmond Pitcher, chairman of the Mersey Barrage Company, a consortium of 24 local and national companies, said they were confident that a private bill would be introduced in November 1991, with work starting in 1995 and a 1999 completion date.

He said that a construction group of five companies was to be set up to offer a firm, guaranteed price for building the barrage.

The project, which will be capable of generating 0.65 per cent of the electricity needs of England and Wales for more than 100 years, has been initially costed at £880 million. Godfrey Bevan, an official at the energy department, said one of the committee's tasks would be to examine the use of the barrage as a coastal defence for Liverpool in the event of global warming causing a rise in sea levels.

Construction of the Mersey barrage could be followed at the end of the decade by the building of the Severn barrage, a vast £8 billion project capable of generating 7 per cent of the nation's electricity, officials said.

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, disclosed yesterday that the government's environment White Paper, to be published this autumn, will include measures to save more than 20 per cent on energy bills.

## Central figure in £43m drugs plot waits for sentence

By DANIEL TREISMAN

EDWARD Richardson, one of the brothers notorious for their gangland activities in the 1960s, will have to wait three months to be sentenced for his part in a £43 million drug smuggling plot.

Richardson, aged 54, a scrap metal merchant, is contesting the Crown's estimate of the profits he made from one of the most lucrative drug operations detected in Britain. He was found guilty of four charges involving plotting to smuggle cocaine through Gatwick, cocaine and cannabis through Southampton, and assisting others to retain the benefits of drug trafficking. He was cleared of plotting to smuggle cannabis through Gatwick.

Yesterday, Frederick Greenfield, aged 41, a publican and former baggage handler, of Bowburn, Co Durham, was cleared at Winchester Crown Court of two charges of conspiring to smuggle cocaine and cannabis through Gatwick airport. He had said he was paid £30,000 to prevent suitcases passing through customs. He said he suspected they contained pornographic material.

Richardson, who served nine years in prison for his part in his brother's crime empire, was a central figure in the network which smuggled large amounts of drugs from South America.

Two tonnes of cannabis and 153 kilos of cocaine, the largest seizure of cocaine targeted directly at the UK, were confiscated by Customs investigators at Portsmouth. The haul, hidden in a consignment of balsam wood on board a ferry from Le Havre, marked the end of an 18-month surveillance called Operation Revolution. The cocaine, shipped from Ecuador, amounted to almost one third of the 450 kilos seized by Customs last year.

Richardson, of Chislehurst, Kent, and Donald Tredwen, aged 56, a car dealer from Crystal Palace, south-east London, sold the drugs to wholesale distributors, taking about 50 per cent of the profit and returning the rest to

Richardson's South American partners. Richardson bought cocaine from South America for £12,000-£13,000 a kilo which he sold on for £26,000 a kilo. Its street value was £240,000 a kilo.

Antonio De Abreu Teixeira, a Colombian businessman based in England, acted as a go-between sending fax messages to Ecuador requesting shipments and sending payments to South America. After several months of surveillance, customs officers made a breakthrough when they found a shipping bill in a hotel room which led to a hunch that drugs were to be transported on the ship Silver Happiness. It was discovered to have left Ecuador on its way to Le Havre carrying a shipment of balsam wood addressed to Globe Overseas Ltd, a company of which Teixeira was managing director.

Customs officers watched in Le Havre as the container was transferred to the ferry Viking Valiant for the Channel crossing and were waiting for it at Portsmouth. Within 24 hours, all suspects had been arrested. A total £50,000 in cash and one replica gun were found in the houses of ring members.

Teixeira, aged 48, of Blackheath, south-east London, pleaded guilty to plotting to smuggle cocaine through Gatwick, smuggling cocaine and cannabis through Southampton and to assisting others to benefit from the operation. Tredwen admitted plotting the smuggling of cannabis through Gatwick and cocaine through Southampton.

Robert Ritchie, aged 40, of Crawley, West Sussex, and Anthony Dean, aged 39, of Worthing, West Sussex, both former baggage handlers at Gatwick, admitted plotting to import cannabis and cocaine through the airport. Each was paid £16,000 for preventing suitcases passing through customs.

Tredwen, who is contesting the assessments of his profits from the deals, will not be sentenced until October along with Richardson. The others will be sentenced on Monday.

## Visual arts prize is suspended

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Turner Prize, the contemporary visual arts equivalent of literature's Booker Prize, has been suspended after the collapse of Drexel Burnham Lambert, the bond dealers who sponsored the award.

The Tate Gallery, which has administered the award since its foundation in 1984, said yesterday that, since the company's collapse in February and withdrawal of involvement, the gallery had been reviewing the future of the £10,000 Turner Prize.

The cost of the sponsorship, which includes administration of the selection, has not been revealed but is thought to be about £80,000. The award would have been presented at the Tate in November after a seven-month process of sifting nominations, judging by an expert panel and shortlisting to find an ultimate winner.

A spokeswoman for the Tate said: "Negotiations are well under way with another potential sponsor with whom we should like to work."

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## Pressure grows for park bans on dogs

By DAVID YOUNG

MAN'S best friend is becoming less welcome in parks and public places as school holidays approach.

The royal parks in London have increased the areas banned to dogs from an experimental four last year to 16, and pressure is growing for other local authorities to introduce similar bans.

The president of the League for the Introduction of Canine Control, Tony Marlow, the Conservative MP for Northampton North, said: "Many people are simply sick and tired of having to clean up after other people who thoughtlessly allow their dogs to foul public places." Mr Marlow's son suffered peripheral blindness because of toxocarasis, an infection caused by a canine worm.

Landlord of pubs with gardens for families are also banning dogs, but few local authorities have banned dogs from public parks and gardens.

They have set up designated areas of parks, using local by-laws and employing dog wardens to enforce the rules, after having satisfied the Home Office that dog-owners' views have been consid-

ered. In Westminster dog owners can be forced to clear up after their pets and face fines of up to £100, but the council had to threaten to take the issue to the High Court before the Home Office would allow it to try the scheme for an experimental two years.

Dog faeces have been found to carry up to 30 diseases which affect humans. The best known is toxocarasis, which can cause blindness and other damage to eyesight when the eggs of the roundworm *toxocara canis*, found in the droppings of 60 per cent of dogs, are consumed by humans, particularly children who inadvertently eat infected soil after playing with toys in infected areas.

The eggs can survive in soil long after the dog faeces have decomposed. Other diseases include salmonella, scabies, leptospirosis which causes kidney damage, and campylobacter which causes intestinal disorders.

The toxocarasis parasites cannot reproduce in humans, but if eggs hatch the tiny larvae penetrate the stomach wall and can wander widely, causing inflammation and damage to nerves and body organs.

Unlike some other countries, Britain

has not made toxocarasis a notifiable disease and many doctors believe thousands of people, especially children, unknowingly suffer from it. The problem was illustrated when 19 out of 133 children picked at random by Bedford county council were found to have been infected by toxocara, five of them needing immediate hospital treatment.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine estimates that one child a week suffers sight loss from toxocarasis. Researchers at the school who examined soil samples from parks and play areas in London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Belfast, Liverpool, Hull, Exeter, Cardiff, Newcastle and Bristol found that half were dangerously contaminated. Soil samples at half the 10 sites contained live eggs of the parasite and some had particularly high numbers of eggs and larvae, notably all three from Hyde Park.

The environment department said the purpose of the experiment in London's Royal Parks was to reduce health risks caused by dog fouling; the scheme had received a very favourable response from park users and has been successful in keeping the areas free from dog faeces.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

## Ridley and the royals

"The problem is that the monarchy is in a worse state than we care to admit. The accepted view that the strong-minded Queen has managed to hold the institution together is no longer correct. The next generation has grown up and fragmented. It is a soap opera, we tell ourselves, harmless fun; but we don't mean it."

Tomorrow, in The Sunday Times, Bryan Appleyard takes a searching look at who our royals are and what they are for. What is at stake in the Ridley affair, he says, has nothing to do with the Hard Ecu - it is our right to cheer, damped, at waving royals and remember.



## A bad back?

The Callanetics and fitness guru Callan Pinckney has developed a regime which lets you exercise for a better back without straining it. Her three-part back care plan starts tomorrow in The Sunday Times Magazine.

## 100 best cars

With the first H-registrations vehicles on the road next week, Eric Dymock selects the 100 best new cars available in British showrooms.

## Mother admits strangling four children

A MOTHER who killed her four children while they slept had tried to strangle her husband only two days earlier, Chelmsford Crown Court was told yesterday.

Oi Tai Ngai, aged 33, of Basildon, Essex, attacked her husband Kam Tong Ngai with the same tie that she used to kill her eldest son, Mr Jeremy Gompertz, QC, for the prosecution, said.

She denied four charges of murder but admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility, which was accepted. Judge Greenwood adjourned the case for psychiatric reports.

After her husband, found the bodies, she said to him: "I told you I couldn't cope with the children. I couldn't cope."

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"We wish to point out that the use of names and addresses is, per se, not harmful; that there is no harm involved in the process of people using names and addresses in order to target their direct mail, and the data which any of the direct mail organisations have is totally unharmed and not useable in any way to pinpoint an individual to their detriment," Mr McRae added.

# Majestic

## Wine Warehouses

In a private ceremony the coffin will be taken from the crypt and buried in the family graveyard beside the Victorian chapel in the grounds. The service will be conducted by the Right Rev Richard Watson, former Bishop of Burnley and chairman of the Thame Historical Society.

Len Perrett, aged 53, from Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, scored two holes in one during the same round at Shireland golf club, near Alfreton, Derbyshire. He plays off 13.



مكرامن الاكل

# Sugar. The more you know about it, the sweeter it tastes.

The Lucifer Humming Bird is one of Nature's athletic wonders. If you're lucky enough to glimpse one in its native South America it will be just a flash of iridescent plumage, nothing more.

On wings beating up to eighty times a second, it can fly upside down and even backwards; callisthenics beside which Olympic champions look puny.

Wherever does this bird get such fantastic energy?

From eating the nearest thing to the sun's rays themselves. Sugar.

## Edible sunshine.

Sugars are the simplest of all foods. Pure and easily digestible, they are a fundamental natural energy source. So basic, in fact, that they aren't just confined to sweet foods. Have you ever wondered why crunching a raw carrot is so delicious? Or why a succulent grass stem is so pleasant to nibble on a summer's walk?

It's because all plants contain sugars. They make them from sunshine, air and water.

Why don't all plants taste sweet? Simply because these sugars are also built into more complex foods.

Starches like potatoes, rice and corn.

And fibre: the stalks, leaves, husks and other parts of the plant's structure.

Scientists call all these sugar-foods *carbohydrates*, because of the carbon, hydrogen and oxygen they contain.

When animals eat carbohydrates, they rapidly break them down to simple sugars again. (Try thoroughly chewing a piece of ordinary bread. After a while, you'll find it begins to taste sweet.)

## Simply purified.

Obviously some foods contain more simple sugars than others. Nectar, honey, milk and many fruits and berries are all rich in sugars. A glass of fresh orange juice contains about as much sugar as a glass of cola (that's another story).

But two plants contain more sugars than all of these.

Sugar cane, a juicy, thick-stemmed tropical grass. And sugar beet, a white root vegetable which grows in cool, temperate climates like our own.

These are the plants from which household sugar is traditionally extracted. It's a simple process.

The juice of the pulped plants is mixed with water, filtered, cleaned and boiled down to a thick syrup, from which pure white sugar can be crystallised.

Left behind is a dark, treacly substance called molasses, which gives brown sugars their characteristic colour and flavour.

There's hardly any nutritional difference between brown and white sugars. And neither contain any colouring, flavouring or preservatives.

When the merchant caravans from the Orient

brought these exotic crystals to Europe in the 11th Century they became a rare delicacy.

A few ounces cost a year's pay, so they had to be stored in lockable caddies.

They were used to flavour meat and fish and to mask the dreadful tastes commonplace before refrigeration.

## Irreplaceable in cooking.

Only when Columbus took sugar cane to the fertile soils of the New World did prices fall and sugar become widely available.

Since then its amazing properties have gradually come to light.

Sugar is a natural preservative. It enhances flavour and provides bulk and texture.

Sugar feeds the

yeast which

makes bread

rise and

ferments

to make

alcoholic

drinks.

It can

set

like plaster and also change into candy, creme, toffee, caramel, syrup, fondant or floss.

It can brown, glaze and fix flavour. It prevents foods from going stale (just leave a lump in the biscuit tin).

But that's not all.

## An explosive, an anti-freeze, a cure for curries.

Sugar can be turned into an explosive. Dissolved in water, an ounce or two will lower the freezing point by several degrees.

A teaspoonful after a vindaloo will extinguish the furnace in your mouth.

You know the bottles and plate glass windows that stuntmen use for their tricks? Guess what they're made of.

Sugar hardens asphalt. And slows the setting of ready-mixed concrete. In vase-water, a spoonful gives cut flowers a longer lease of life.

A pinch of sugar on the tongue is a traditional remedy for hiccups.

Lifeboats and aircraft carry sugar in their survival kits. Astronauts, athletes and mountaineers use sugar tablets as emergency energy supplies.

'Eat thou honey: because it is good' says the Book of Proverbs. 'Honesty coupled to beauty is to have honey: a sauce to sugar' wrote Shakespeare in *As You Like It*.

Sugar has been praised by Chaucer and immortalised in the nursery rhyme. (What are little girls made of?)

For over 2,000 years sugar and sweetness have been bywords for goodness and love. Until recently.

Because today it's a very different story. Sugar now stands

accused of causing fillings, flab and worse. Is it to blame?

## Sugar itself doesn't rot your teeth.

Sugar is undoubtedly a factor in tooth decay. But it isn't sugar which damages your teeth. It's acid, released by bacteria in the mouth.

These bacteria live on sugars and starches left on the teeth after eating. So it follows, keep your teeth clean and the bacteria will starve.

Brush your teeth with a recognised fluoride toothpaste at least twice a day. Avoid eating too frequently between meals. And visit your dentist regularly.

Then sugar shouldn't harm your teeth. What about your waistline?

## Only 16 Calories per teaspoon.

So many people now believe sugar is fattening, it's become widely accepted as the truth. 'Sugar tastes so good' runs a perverse logic 'that it must be bad for you.'

Yet how many Calories are there in a four gram sugar lump?

16. The same as protein and half as many as in fat. (You probably add more Calories to your coffee or tea with milk than with sugar.)

Every day an average person needs 1500 Calories.

Just to breathe, keep warm and make your heart

beat. Half these Calories, nutritionists say, should

come from carbohydrates - sugars and starches.

So keep things in proportion.

Even a weight-watcher can enjoy sugar

in moderation.

As to other charges, scientific studies

the world over confirm that sugar is

not a direct cause of disease.

Indeed, judiciously sprinkled,

sugar can lead you into much

healthier eating habits.

Think how it transforms

a sharp grapefruit or even

breakfast bran.

Don't miss out on

a treat from Nature

on account of empty

rumour.

As one person said,

avoiding sugar

won't make

you live any

longer.

It'll just

seem

that

way.



# The Eauper.



**School  
cont  
teach  
scie**

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## Part

## Curb on sponsors

The Commission was  
 established by the  
 Department of  
 Education and  
 Science, and  
 the Department of  
 Health and  
 Social Security.

The Corporation, Harris  
and the late Robert W.  
Harris, a partner in the  
firm, and spouse.

...the called for a 27 per cent increase in consumption for 1990. "Even quite liberalized consumption is not coming to people."

ing a debate on promoting good health, Roger Simon, M.D., C.I. said: "I would like to see a complete ban on the use of tobacco and promotion of sports, especially that associated with sports, which seems particularly cynical."

...was the largest cause  
...and premature death  
...110,000 died before  
...time through smoking  
...disease and illness. And  
...there had been a decline  
...number of smokers,  
...of the population still  
...and it was worryin'  
...young people  
...girls took up sm

the government spent  
million a year trying to  
people from smoking  
taco companies spent  
a year trying to  
them.  
George Young (R-)

# Shifty?

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...complained to  
...this month the  
...ment was springing  
...on the House of  
...without agreement  
...the "usual channels"  
...normal contacts between  
...managers.

Skinner (Bellevue)  
that it was time for the  
to use his authority. His  
words had not been  
for the government. I  
ated them with con-  
You have to make  
the government that it  
has to do

others argued that the government was seeking to restrict press coverage. Protests arose when it was announced that a minister would make a statement in Illinois, the first time a cabinet member had ever

...company.  
...y 3, the Speaker. Ber-  
...therill, had suspended

100



By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

Mr MacGregor said that many independent schools wanted to adopt the national curriculum although not legally required to do so. An insistence on "balanced" science might have prevented them from doing so.

Mr Philip Halsey, chairman and chief executive of Seac, said: "The council has consistently said: 'I am confident that the measures are helping the education service to help protect abused children and children at risk of abuse.'" The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said that a teacher was often the first person an abused child told.

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## Curb on tobacco sponsors sought

**Sir George Young** (Ealing,

Smoking should be reduced with proper control over advertising. Needless deaths should be avoided at all costs.

On July 3, the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, had suspended

The Speaker pointed out that Friday was a normal working day and that he had no prior knowledge of the contents of statements.

Mr Richardson, of Pontsticill, Merthyr Tydfil, who was jailed by Judge Rutter at Cardiff Crown Court on August 24, 1988, had his rape conviction quashed and sentence set aside. Lord Justice Taylor said the jury in the case had been impeccably directed and it was conceded that the trial had been fair.

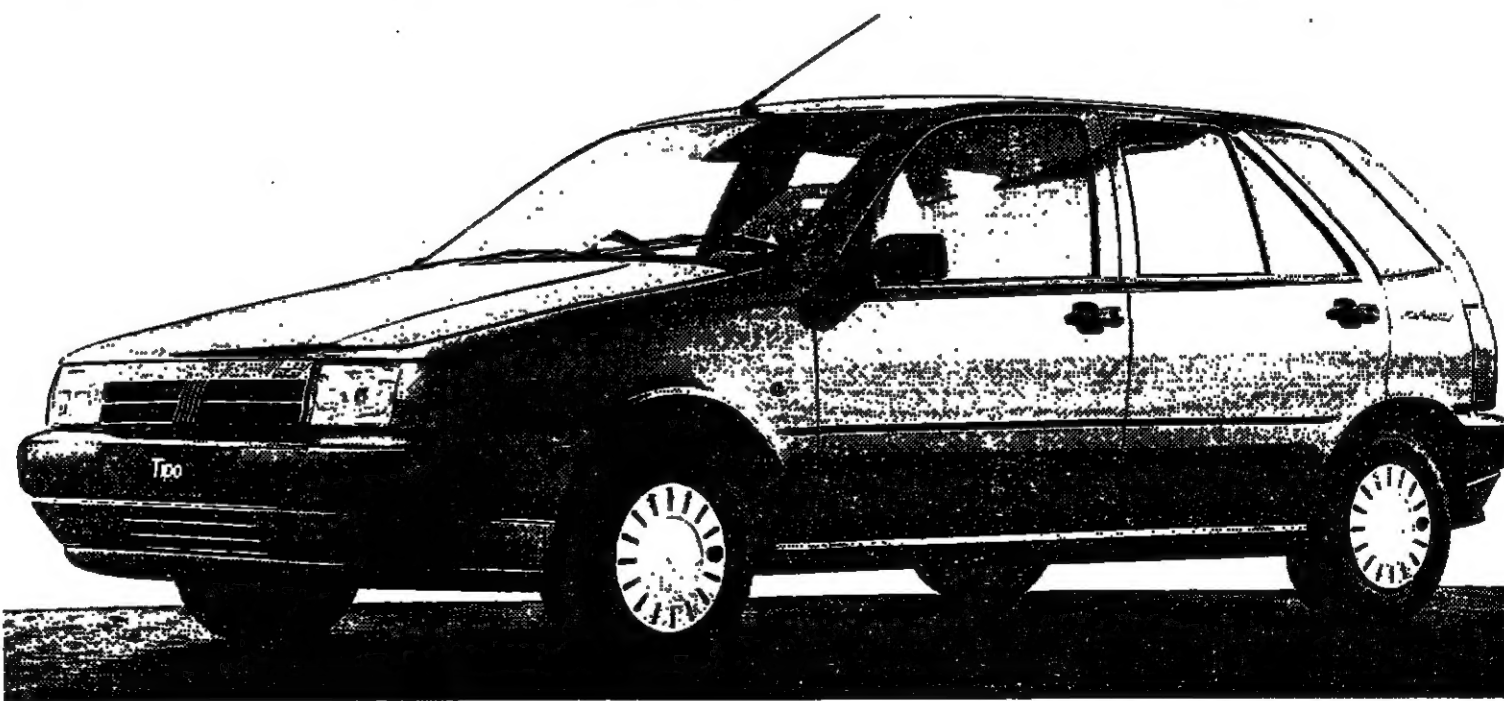


## BY DANIEL TREISMAN

9,000 last year, or two per cent of all cases of diarrhoea investigated. However, the parasite, which is found in livestock wastes, can affect hundreds of people if it gets into the water supply. Sir John said: "I can't say which people are at risk because in general the whole country is very slightly at risk from a very small number of cases." Cryptosporidium, which is generally killed by boiling water, can have pos-

● The European Community should require member countries to conserve water because of the threat of global warming to low rainfall, according to a water expert. William Sheate, water specialist for the Council for the Protection of Rural England, will tell an international conference on environmental law in Durham today that water resources should be a focus for European Community action.

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3 YEARS.**



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FIAT TIPO LA FORMULA	0% OVER 24 MONTHS	0% OVER 36 MONTHS	7.9% (15.14% APR) OVER 48 MONTHS
Cash Price†	7,990.00	7,990.00	7,990.00
Deposit (35%)	2,796.40	(40%) 3,195.88	(20%) 1,598.00
APR %	0%	0%	15.14%
Monthly Instalments (24)	216.40	(36) 133.17	(48) 175.25
Total Credit Price	7,990.00	7,990.00	10,010.00
SAVING versus Fiat Finance Typical Rate (22.5% APR)††	1,175.76	1,656.72	992.44

**FIAT**[illegible]



# Bonn to cut defence bill as peace pays big dividend

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE West German government is planning a first peace dividend next year with further cuts of 4 per cent to its planned defence budget of DM52.6 billion (£17.8 billion). This is the second proposed cut in the original draft for defence spending and would bring the total to just under DM50 billion compared with DM54.2 billion being spent this year.

The cut was among the last decisions taken by Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, before leaving yesterday for his annual month-long holiday at St Gilgen in the Wolfgangsee in Austria. He agreed on the reduction together with leaders of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU).

Among those absent was Gerhard Stoltenberg, the defence minister, who had originally been promised a DM55.3 billion budget for

next year. He was consulted by telephone during the meeting and, although not happy about the cut, was said to have agreed with the principle. Sources said he felt that he had been abandoned by party friends and the chancellor because he was striving to maintain a strong defence.

Defence spending was bound to be cut following Herr Kohl's promise to President Gorbachev this week to restrict the size of the army of a united Germany to 370,000 men, which is 100,000 fewer than the size of the present Bundeswehr. Bernd Witz, the CDU defence spokesman, said the reduction was a clear signal of future spending.

The CDU-CSU proposal will be debated after the summer recess in the Bundestag, where it should have no difficulty in being passed, although the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) are likely to argue that even more money could be saved.

Herr Stoltenberg has been asked to draw up a further report on low-flying exercises, which more than any other individual aspect contributes to NATO's unpopularity in West Germany. Herr Kohl agreed with his defence experts that it was no longer necessary to train as low as 250 ft such training, which is already restricted to seven areas and at certain times, is the lowest level permitted over West Germany. He wants a 1,000 ft level, while Herr Stoltenberg considers 850 ft as a compromise.

Last September the defence minister persuaded the allied air forces to accept further cuts and restrictions in low-level training, including slower speeds and summer breaks. Citizens' action groups, however, were not satisfied and kept up the pressure. Since then Herr Stoltenberg has been trying to persuade NATO air forces to end such training.

NATO's departure from a forward defence policy strategy does mean that low-level missions are no longer relevant and defence ministry officials believe that it will not be long before it is phased out altogether.

● **STRAUSBERG:** East Germany's 62,000 professional soldiers swore a new oath yesterday before a pacifist defence minister to defend the state as long as it exists — which may be just a matter of months.

The new oath, sworn at army bases across the country, replaces a redundant oath of allegiance to the old communist leadership.

"Achtung! The minister for disarmament and defence. Eyes right," screamed Lieutenant-General Manfred Grotz as the pacifist pastor-turned-minister, Rainer Eppelmann, strode to the podium. More than 1,000 officers and non-commissioned officers who work at the ministry, a second world war German military base an hour's drive east of Berlin, drew up in ranks to swear the new and shorter oath of allegiance.

"I swear," they intoned after Admiral Theodor Hoffmann, the armed forces chief, "always to fulfil with discipline and honour my military duties according to the laws of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). I swear to devote all my energy to maintaining the peace and protecting the GDR." (Reuters)



Soviet troops standing guard outside Communist Party headquarters in Osh, Kirghizia, where more than 12 people were killed this week in ethnic violence. Elsewhere in the Soviet Union, four people were killed and 10 injured in an explosion on a passenger train near the Black Sea, a Soviet interior ministry spokesman said yesterday. It was not known if a bomb caused the blast.

## Budapest digging in on arms inspection rights

By ANDREW MCLEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN VIENNA

THE disintegration of the Warsaw Pact has taken a new turn in the Conventional Forces in Europe talks in Vienna, where the Hungarian delegation is insisting on the right to inspect the forces of other East European countries.

The Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, expected to be ready for signing by November, is an agreement between the 16 NATO countries and the seven Warsaw Pact nations to reduce forces in Central Europe and to give each side the right to check that the other meets its obligations.

As the Warsaw Pact is no longer an effective military alliance, the negotiators now refer to the two sides as "groups of nations". Despite this, it is largely written in adversarial terms, as if the Cold War era had not yet ended. It will be the last treaty to be written in such a way.

However, Hungary, which is seeking to leave the Warsaw Pact, has forced the negotiators to widen their outlook. It wants the inspection rights to apply between members of the same group. A senior Hungarian source said yesterday that Budapest would refuse to sign the treaty without such a clause. Two Western sources confirmed that Hungary had been equally firm in meetings of the 23 nations. Hungary could in theory block the treaty if it did not get its way, but a senior Western source said it looked likely that a way of accommodating Budapest would be found.

The objections do not come solely from other East European nations. Greece and Turkey are just as unenthusiastic about allowing each other to inspect their bases.

The proposal seemed to have no chance of success when Budapest first raised it earlier this year. Most Warsaw Pact members were offended by it, according to the Hungarian source, and at first NATO was equally doubtful. The Hungarian delegation has not yet made it a formal proposal but is expected to do so soon.

The delay was a tactical move. Budapest did not put Soviet negotiators in a position where they would have to reject it, reasoning that, given time, they would see that it was in their interests. After Budapest has left the pact, the Soviet Union will want to monitor Hungarian forces. Western sources say that Budapest's real aim is not to check that the Soviet Union complies with the treaty, but to monitor military movements in Romania. The two countries have a long history of tense relations.

The Hungarian plan is one of a number of issues making verification the toughest aspect of the talks. There are continuing differences over the frequency and intrusiveness of inspections and whether the challenged country or the challenger should pay for inspections.

One fear raised by the Soviet delegation was that the Hungarians might use up a lot of the Eastern group's quota for annual inspections, leaving less time for checking Western bases. The Hungarians said they would be willing to limit it to a fixed number of days.

The two sides have settled their differences over the destruction of military helicopters in excess of the quota but there are still differences over the destruction of 40,000 Soviet tanks.

spokesman said yesterday. It was not known if a bomb caused the blast. In another incident, Armenian nationalists took hostage a Soviet guard detachment after a gun battle on the Turkish border yesterday, prompting the new Armenian parliament to halt its opening session.

Those still in the West are sitting on a powder keg. If their masters start to talk for money or promises of leniency they are finished. After December, the East will no longer be a hiding place," the assistant said.

He admitted that information is still flowing among agents, even though the old command structure has broken down. "The time-honoured methods still apply. They go for a walk along the same route every day and look at a certain window. If there is a light there, they are to stay where they are. If the window is dark, they are to return to East Berlin. The only thing protecting them is the friendship and loyalty within the service."

Herr Wolf has already said that he will not denounce spies in return for freedom from prosecution. To hundreds of agents he is still "Der Chef" — the boss, the name he insisted upon. "I cannot get out of the habit of calling him that," his assistant said.

The West German counter-espionage service, Bundesnachrichtendienst, is divided on the fate of their former enemy. "If he is not prosecuted, it makes a mockery of West German justice," said one source. Others are worried

that Herr Wolf will reveal embarrassing details of espionage triumphs if he is brought to court, and weaken the service.

Herr Wolf said recently that the placing of Günter Guillaume in the office of Willy Brandt, the former chancellor, was not his greatest coup. "The others were better because they were never caught."

Since his retirement from the espionage department, emphatically called the Aufklärung (the enlightenment), in 1987, he has emerged from the shadows to become a national celebrity because of his support for Moscow-type reforms. Hans Modrow, the former prime minister and a longstanding friend, has described him as "the cleverest brain this country ever had."

Herr Wolf recognised earlier than anyone else that the days of hardline socialism were numbered. An attempt to rescue East Germany by manoeuvring Herr Modrow into a position of power failed when the fall of Erich Honecker's regime unleashed latent demands for unification. "If you ask anyone in the service what development they dreaded most, it is this," his assistant said.

Moscow has made it clear it expects Bonn to take a liberal view of its former agent, and to exempt him from prosecution. A Soviet embassy spokesman in East Berlin said: "We will judge the future of German political culture by how generously the case of Markus Wolf is handled."

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Doctors have not yet determined if Herr Honecker, aged 77, is well enough to stand trial. He faces charges of abuse of power and corruption. General Mielke, aged 82, is accused of "having allowed terrorists to take refuge in the GDR." (AFP)

# Spy chief 'looking for Soviet haven for Stasi'

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

MARKUS Wolf is not at home, his Russian wife says apologetically. The most successful spy chief in Europe, who headed East Germany's espionage operations for 30 years, has gone to Moscow "to work on his book".

The West German security service does not believe that Herr Wolf's frequent trips to the Soviet Union — at least three in the past two months — are caused by a drive for literary perfection. "In Germany we say that lies have short legs," one Western source said. "On that criterion Wolf must be a dwarf by now." Herr Wolf's journeys are thought to revolve around the transfer of Stasi agents in the West to the KGB.

Earlier there had been speculation that the spy chief, who faces the prospect of a seven-year jail term for treason when the two Germanies unite, intended to flee to the Soviet Union. It has now been stated he is prepared to face up to West German justice, but that he expects freedom from prosecution in return for information.

Herr Wolf's personal assistant, who insisted on anonymity before agreeing to a meeting, said that former agents — he is one himself — are "extremely nervous" about their fates after unity.

"Those still in the West are sitting on a powder keg. If their masters start to talk for money or promises of leniency they are finished. After December, the East will no longer be a hiding place," the assistant said.

He admitted that information is still flowing among agents, even though the old command structure has broken down. "The time-honoured methods still apply. They go for a walk along the same route every day and look at a certain window. If there is a light there, they are to stay where they are. If the window is dark, they are to return to East Berlin. The only thing protecting them is the friendship and loyalty within the service."

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## Delors guarded on EC aid to Moscow

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

JACQUES Delors, the president of the European Commission, ended a three-day visit to Moscow yesterday with praise for President Gorbachev's grasp of market economics but a guarded response to Soviet requests for economic co-operation.

M Delors, who was paying his first official visit to the Soviet Union, acknowledged that the Soviet economy needed Western help and said the Commission would take a decision in October when more was known about the direction of Soviet economic reform plans. He described his visit as largely exploratory, but said that Moscow needed "at least technical assistance."

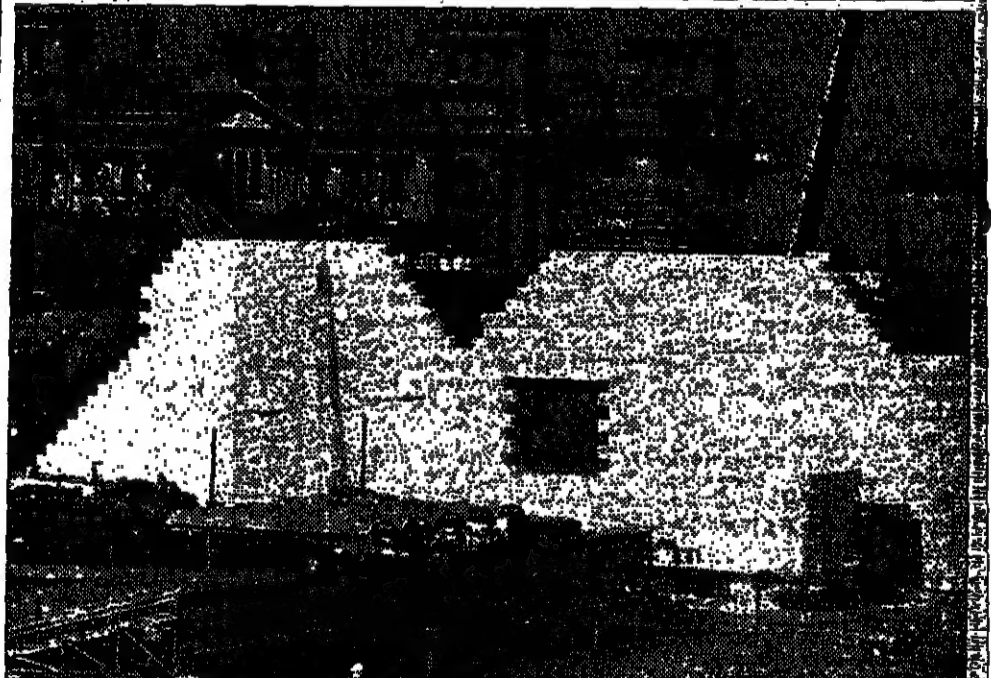
He said a group of European Community experts would visit Moscow next month to compile a report on economic reforms and possible uses for Western aid.

M Delors was given top-level treatment in Moscow, where he was received by

Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister, Leonid Abalkin, the head of the government's economic reform programme, Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister, and President Gorbachev himself.

On Thursday, according to Tass, M Delors expressed concern about plans by individual Soviet republics to introduce their own currency. This was interpreted in Moscow as offering Mr Gorbachev crucial "political" support against the separatist aspirations of the Baltic republics, Estonia and Lithuania, he said.

Yesterday, however, M Delors played down the importance of what he had said, saying he had merely emphasised to the Soviet leader that the EC considered it advantageous to move in the opposite direction, from 12 separate economies towards one integrated economy with a common currency.



AN 80 ft high imitation of the Berlin Wall going up at Potsdamerplatz to provide the background for today's rock concert. The Wall, to raise money for the Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief. The EC yesterday gave \$378,000 (£210,000) towards the performance that will re-stage Pink Floyd's celebrated 1979 album about the way authorities can control the minds of people. The proceeds go to the fund set up in 1989 which aims to raise \$9 for each of the 100 million lives lost in the first and second world wars and subsequent conflicts. The concert is expected to draw more than 200,000 people, and will be shown on television worldwide. (Reuters)

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK by Michael Binyon

## Nit-picking Eurocrats determined to derail the Gravy Train

THE TV series *The Gravy Train* has reached the end of its run on Channel 4, but video copies are still making the rounds here and Eurocrats, embarrassed to see themselves so mercilessly skewered on the programme, are riposting with all the nit-picking they usually reserve for arcane regulations on rollover-protection on agricultural and forestry vehicles. For instance, there are 23, not 22, directorates at the Berlaymont, the European Commission headquarters. There is no Euro-pool of big black shiny cars. Plums and others surprises do not arrive by the tonne-load at Midi station, but are consigned to rot in intervention warehouses in producer countries. And which EC secretary can speak only Portuguese? Unless you can file in English, flirt in French and deal with parking fines in Flemish you will not get a look in at the Berlaymont.

But the series got one thing right. Being new in Brussels can be confusing. Shortly after I arrived, the *Financial Times* man invited us for dinner.

"Do come, Leon Brittan's chef



Bewildering Brussels: Christoph Waltz, left, and Alexei Sayle in a scene from Channel 4's successful series *The Gravy Train*

will be there." Ah, this is the gravy train, I told my wife. Clearly journalists know all the best people.

But the commissioner for competition policy's chef, a pleasant besuited Scot, did not seem quite the culinary maestro I expected. It took a full ten minutes of confusing conversation before I understood that a chef de cabinet prepares directives, and not soups.

Nine official languages exist in the Community, although Irish Gaelic is virtually unused. There is, however, another language in common use that takes years to master: Euro-jargon. This is a special variant of franglais, where words such as "derogation" (exception, in plain English) are pointers to whole lifestyles in Euro-diplomacy: the effort by "perm reps" (member states'

ambassadors) to force every other country except their own to obey some new directive.

The haggling is usually sorted out in "corper" (comité permanent des représentants). There is more haggling in "poco", the jealously separate political co-operation procedure, never to be mixed up with Berlaymont business.

But what about the co-operation procedure, a right for which MEPs will battle until the bars close? That needs a day's reading of the Sea (Single European Act) to understand and basically means Strasbourg and the Commission ganging up on the Council of Ministers.

Then there are the French acronyms with English meanings, and vice-versa.

The Berd is not a species of Euro-fowl but the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The ecu, we all know, is not just an ancient French coin but a gleam in the eye of Jacques Delors, whereas the hard Ecu seems to be something John Major wants us to break our teeth on.

All the directorates-general are referred to by those in the know. It's crassly naive to talk about the agriculture directorate; DG VI is the terminology for lobbyists boasting about their inside track. "That must be the work of DG II, DG V would never have phrased it like that," I was told recently. Translation: the commissioner for economic and financial affairs presents arguments on unit labour costs quite differently from Vasso Papandreu, commissioner for social affairs and champion of the notorious social charter.

Of course there's a pecking order and the bottom, as *The Gravy Train* rightly insisted, is DG X — culture.

But even Jean Dondelinger, the hapless commissioner from Luxembourg, where Eurocracy is a way of life, would balk at it being called the "dullest, darkest, dumbest and dafdest".



## US judges overturn one of North's convictions

From MARTIN FLETCHER in WASHINGTON

A US appeal court overturned one of Oliver North's three Iran-Contra convictions yesterday and paved the way for the possible reversal of the others by ordering a hearing to determine whether his trial had been fair.

A divided three-judge panel ruled that the former Marine lieutenant-colonel and White House aide was entitled to a fresh trial on the charge that he had shredded sensitive administration documents because his jury had been given erroneous instructions by the trial judge.

The panel also ordered the judge, Gerhard Gesell, to hold an exhaustive investigation into whether the prosecution evidence in last year's trial had been "tainted" by North's televised testimony, given to a congressional committee in 1987 while he was under immunity from prosecution.

The ruling represents a big setback for Lawrence Walsh, the independent prosecutor charged with investigating the biggest scandal of the Reagan

years. He declined to say yesterday whether he would appeal. The ruling also raises serious questions about the wisdom of investigative congressional committees hearing testimony, given immunity, from figures who may be tried.

In May last year North was convicted on three charges of destroying documents, obstructing a congressional investigation of the Iran-Contra affair, and receiving an illegal gratuity from a businessman involved in the plot to sell arms to Iran and channel the proceeds to the Nicaraguan Contras.

He was given a three-year suspended prison sentence, fined \$150,000 (£90,000) and ordered to perform 1,200 hours of community service.

The appeals court was divided in its ruling yesterday. The one Carter administration appointee opposed the decision of two Reagan appointees. "I am convinced that the essentials of a fair trial were accorded North," Chief Judge Patricia Wald said.

## Mongol nomad's no-choice poll

From NICHOLAS MIDDLETON in ULAN BATOR

WHEN Batsagaan, a nomadic herdsman, puts his cross on the ballot paper tomorrow in Mongolia's first multi-party elections, he will not have to make much of a choice.

The voting papers that will arrive by jeep at his ger — the felt tent in which Mongolian nomads live — will have just one name on them.

Despite the great enthusiasm in Mongolia for democratic government, the five opposition parties will not field candidates for all the 451 seats in the People's Great Hural, the main parliamentary chamber.

The government will be relying on people, like Batsagaan, who are happy with

the status quo to support their representatives in the elections tomorrow, and in the second round on July 29.

Observers believe the lack of opposition candidates in the rural aimaks, or states, will be a key reason for the communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary party retaining power.

The electoral legislation is also weighted in favour of rural seats where the party is strong. In Ulan Bator, birthplace of the democratic movement, there is one seat for every 10,000 residents, while in the countryside, where the population is thinly spread, one seat represents 2,000 people.

Many rural people are suspicious of the new opposition parties, some of whose tactics have on occasions alienated the herdsman. In March, leading members of the Democratic party went on hunger strike to force the government to allow democratic elections. While hunger strikes in other parts of the world are an accepted political tool, in rural Mongolia they were unheard of. Batsagaan, for instance, could not understand why these city people were refusing to eat, when life for him and his seven children was hard enough.

The Democratic party, the main opposition group, is also viewed with suspicion because several of its leading figures are of mixed race: half-Russian or half-Chinese.

Even if the communists retain power, it too (glasnost in Mongolia) has taken hold. The party has committed itself to a market economy, and is turning towards the West for assistance. The Japanese are at the head of the queue, eager to get their hands on Mongolia's large reserves of coal and minerals.

There is certainly an air of excitement in Mongolia about tomorrow's elections. Like many people, the deputy secretary of one of the aimaks was eager for change, and believed better relations with the West will bring more jobs and development. Pointing to a colleague, a former colonel in the military, he said: "This man needs a new job. He has been sitting at the table of bureaucracy for too long."

● PEKING: The American Secretary of State, James Baker, will visit Mongolia on August 2, it was announced yesterday. He will be the first senior US official to visit Mongolia and is expected to agree an aid programme for the country during his three-day visit. (AFP)



Traffic flow: Nepalese making their way along a flooded street in Kathmandu. Monsoon rains have also caused an outbreak of disease in which 150 have died

## South African hopes rise of Olympic return

From RAY KENNEDY in JOHANNESBURG

AFTER 20 years in exile, Sam Ramsamy, who is regarded as one of the main architects of South Africa's sporting isolation, is soon to return on a visit linked to the country's efforts to be readmitted to the Olympic Games.

Mr Ramsamy, chairman of the London-based South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc), has been commissioned by the International Olympic Committee and the Association of African National Olympic Committees (Aanoc) to draw up a report on the state of South African sport. The report will be considered at an Aanoc meeting in Harare this year.

Mr Ramsamy's visit, from August 3, was announced in Johannesburg yesterday by the African National Congress-affiliated National Sports Congress (NSC) and the South African National Olympic Committee. It was the NSC which organised demonstrations that forced the abandonment of the tour by Mike Gatting and a team of England cricketers earlier this year.

The statement said that Mr Ramsamy would also advise on the composition of a South African delegation to be invited to the Harare meeting. A recommendation by Aanoc is crucial if South Africa is to be readmitted to the Olympic

Games. It was expelled from the Olympic movement in 1963 because its racial policies contravened the charter.

That was the year that "Papwa" Sewgolum, the black golfer, received his trophy in the rain after winning the Natal Open. Despite the objections of Gary Player, Sewgolum was barred from entering the club house because of separate amenities legislation.

The Separate Amenities Act is due to be scrapped in October and President de Klerk has indicated that the Population Registration Act, under which every South African is identified by race, and which is the chief obstacle to political emancipation, could be the next to go. The Group Areas Act, which defines living areas according to colour, remains the main stumbling block to South Africa's international re-acceptance.

White-dominated sports organisations maintain they have done everything possible so far to end racial discrimination within the limits of the law.

Soccer chiefs believe the country is close to being readmitted to international football, from which South Africa was expelled in 1974. The professional game in South Africa is multiracial. Many of the country's athletic

track and field champions are black. Rugby, the so-called white man's game, has been multiracial for years, according to Dr Danie Craven, president of the South African Rugby Board, although few blacks or Coloureds have gained provincial first-team selection.

Cricket has had to make do with rebel tours since 1968 when John Vorster, then prime minister, barred an MCC team which included Basil d'Oliveira, the Cape Town-born Coloured player, from coming to South Africa. Ted Dexter, MCC captain at the time and now the England manager, said then: "This decision is the start of the isolation of South Africa in the sports world."

Tony Ward, spokesman for the British Amateur Athletics Board, was reported here yesterday as saying of Mr Ramsamy's visit: "This is the most exciting and pleasing news for world sport and not just South African sport. I feel that we are close to seeing the end of young South Africans of all races being excluded from world competition. It has been a tragedy and disruption to world sport. I think that we can now look ahead to seeing a unified South Africa in the 1996 Olympic Games."

Leading article, page 13

# OIL'S NOW REACHED ITS HIGHEST LEVEL

## Talks cut shock for Arens

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

THE first visit of Moshe Arens, Israel's new defence minister, to the United States, was marred yesterday by Washington's surprise postponement of talks on joint defence programmes.

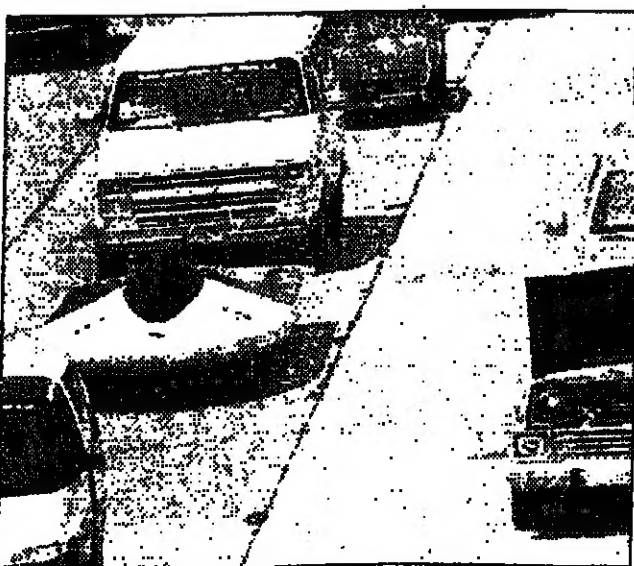
The announcement came shortly after Mr Arens left for Washington, where he was meeting Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, yesterday.

Israeli analysts speculated that the talks on joint defence programmes, scheduled to begin next week, were postponed because the US had not finalised its defence aid proposals for Israel.

They also said it could be an attempt to pressure Israel to stop stalling on the Middle East peace process. Israel radio described the postponement as "a complete surprise to Israeli delegates".

Israel receives \$3 billion (£1.6 billion) in aid each year from the US, of which \$1.8 billion is for military projects. But President Bush has been urged by some congressional members to reduce aid to its military allies to free funds for Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Mr Arens was expected to discuss new funding for Israel's Arrow anti-ballistic missile project, being developed jointly with Lockheed. Washington has given Israel \$158 million towards its development, but Mr Arens is seeking about \$200 million more for the second phase.



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# Tokyo fears new scandal as tycoon is arrested

From Joe Joseph in Tokyo

TOKYO Jangled with speculation yesterday that Japan is about to plunge into political chaos again, when it has barely recovered from the Recruit bribery scandal which toppled the government.

The alarm was set ringing by the sudden arrest of Masuhiro Kotani, a flamboyant tycoon with wide business and political contacts, on charges of stock manipulation, bribery and other offences.

Mr Kotani was formerly a close associate of Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former prime minister whose book-keeping raised the eyebrows of Tokyo's public prosecutors during the Recruit case last year. Mr Kotani was a generous donor to Mr Nakasone's election campaign.

A senior MP of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said yesterday: "If politicians are found to have made huge profits from stock transactions, this case might evolve into another Recruit stock-for-favours scandal."

Yoshihiko Kamekura, an aide to Mr Nakasone, was quick to distance his boss from Mr Kotani, and said they had had no dealings recently.

Several senior politicians and their aides are rumoured to have been involved with the activities of Kotani, a

stock speculation company run by Mr Kotani. These activities are said to include the cornering of shares in Kokusai Kogyo, an aerial survey firm. Four Kokusai Kogyo executives were arrested last month for alleged tax fraud and a fifth has fled to Australia.

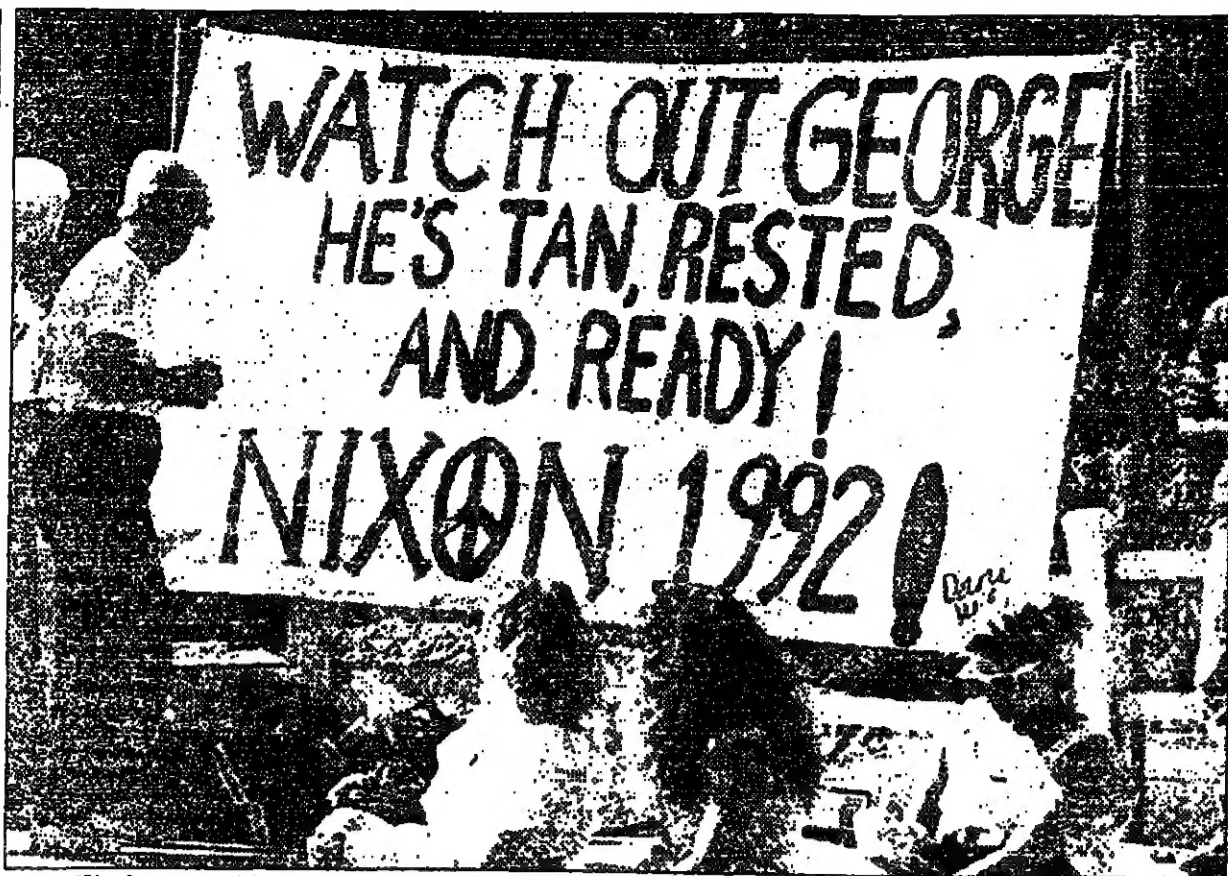
Mr Kotani was arrested on Thursday night on charges of manipulating the share price of a large hotel chain, Fujita Tourist Enterprises. He is alleged to have used some of the 30 billion yen (\$1.1 billion) he netted from the Fujita deal to finance the takeover of Kokusai Kogyo in 1987-88.

The fact that Mr Kotani was arrested by the special investigative branch of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutor's Office, the most powerful arm of the judiciary, rather than the police, has stimulated speculation of a political link. It was the same office that handled the Recruit affair and investigated Mr Nakasone's links to Recruit.

Arrested with Mr Kotani was Shuichi Yamamoto, former president of a construction firm, and an aide to Kunikida Saito, once secretary-general of the LDP. Mr Saito said: "I never received shares from Mr Kotani and I have no special relationship with him."

But the spotlight is on Mr Nakasone, whose links to Kokusai Kogyo are the subject of an unsettled lawsuit.

Tokyo stocks slump, page 40



Word power: a friendly warning to President Bush from wellwishers of Richard Nixon as the former president's presidential library was dedicated in Yorba Linda, California.



## Seoul border overture rejected

From A Correspondent in Seoul

NORTH Korea has denounced the South's declaration that it will open its heavily fortified border temporarily next month as a propaganda trick designed to spoil a rally it plans to hold on the national liberation day.

In a statement on nationwide radio and television, President Roh Tae Woo accepted a proposal by the North to open the border to the village of Panmunjom on August 15 and raised the stakes by declaring the southern side of the crossing point open for five days from August 13, during Pyongyang's annual festival.

A South Korean news agency reported that North Korea, in a statement on Radio Pyongyang, also called

the move an attempt to divert attention from the planned resignation of all South Korean opposition legislators from the National Assembly on Monday.

The Seoul prime minister's office telephoned the North after the announcement to explain the proposal and suggest a meeting on July 30 to work out details.

"The time has come to end total division," Mr Roh told South Koreans. "Korea must not remain the world's only land still partitioned by cold-war politics."

Mr Roh said there would be no restrictions on travellers from the North - still officially at war with the South. He also said that in the near future, foreigners would be permitted to travel directly

between the two Koreas. South Korea's largest dissident movements said the border opening was a step in the right direction and demanded the release of political prisoners.

While Mr Roh said the opening was unconditional, the unification board said leading dissidents would not be allowed to travel to Panmunjom on August 15 for a rally in the northern half of the truce village unless the North allowed free travel for the full five-day period.

Analysts and Western diplomats in Seoul are sceptical of the North's hardline leadership allowing South Koreans into its regimented society, except perhaps for dissidents, and say that although Mr Roh's move puts pressure on

the North, it is unlikely to have the same dramatic effect as recent events in Europe.

● **Opposition move:** Two opposition leaders and the head of South Korea's largest dissident organisation yesterday set the stage for an anti-government alliance, and urged the ruling party to hold parliamentary and local elections soon. In a statement, Kim Dae Jung, of the Party for Peace and Democracy, Lee Ki Taek, of the Democratic party, and Kim Kwan Suk, of the Conference for Promotion of Opposition Unity, said the Democratic Liberal party of Mr Roh would have to take all the responsibility for any "incidents" that might occur if it failed to meet their demands.

Leading article, page 13

## Rangoon still holds Suu Kyi

From Neil Kelly in Bangkok

AUNG San Suu Kyi, the Burmese opposition leader whose National League for Democracy swept the polls at elections two months ago, remains in detention although she completed her sentence of one year's house arrest yesterday.

Senior diplomats in Rangoon said that the military junta had clearly never intended to release Daw Suu Kyi, who has become Burma's best hope for the future. Under their own laws, the military rulers may extend her detention for six months, and for two more six-month periods after that.

The crowds that gathered outside her house in northern Rangoon yesterday were dispersed by troops who were there in far greater strength than usual. Daw Suu Kyi has been living virtually in solitary confinement since her arrest, allegedly for endangering national security.

Dr Michael Aris, her English husband, and their two schoolboy sons, who live in Oxford, are not allowed to visit her. She is permitted family letters, and parcels sent by the British Embassy.

Although her party won more than 80 per cent of the seats contested at the election, the military has made no move to hand over power. "There is growing despair among the people," said one diplomat. "They feel the election, which promised so much, was a monstrous sham. They know if they go out to the streets to protest they will be shot as demonstrators were in large numbers two years ago." The diplomat said, however, that there were signs of opposition frustration over the party leaders' soft approach to the government.

Daw Suu Kyi, aged 45, created the party and drew in the votes, but her detention and the imprisonment of senior colleagues have left the party rudderless. Those in control now are seen as no match for the military regime, which is intimidating party officials.

The party's failure to challenge the government has disappointed many people who voted for it and could ultimately cost it much support. "That's the way the military are nullifying the election victory," the diplomat said.

Western diplomats and Rangoon residents are fearful that the violence that cost many lives in 1988 could recur soon. The diplomats have little contact with the military, but say they have warned of this danger.

The first confrontation between the regime and the opposition could occur a week today, when 322 party members, who won seats in the election are due to hold their first meeting in Rangoon to consider the government's refusal to discuss a handover of power.

The government has given a warning that the meeting may not be used to convene a national parliament. There are growing demands for such action, especially from the young radicals who comprise two-thirds of those elected and who until now have been restrained by party elders. "The meeting could be a tinder box," the diplomat said.

## Quake toll may rise to 1,000

Baguio - Rescuers searched in vain for signs of life among collapsed buildings yesterday as officials feared that the death toll from the deadliest earthquake to hit the Philippines in 14 years could exceed 1,000.

Four days after the earthquake devastated this northern city, a US Marine observation plane on a relief mission crashed on a mountain near by, killing its pilot and injuring a crewman.

President Aquino called an emergency cabinet meeting and army rebels said they were suspending hostilities while the country recovered from the disaster. (Reuters)

## Berry charged

St Charles, Missouri - The rock 'n' roll singer, Chuck Berry, has been charged with child abuse and possession of marijuana based on evidence seized in a raid on his home last month. (AP)

## Killer elephants

Dhaka - Wild elephants went on a rampage, killing at least 28 people and destroying three villages in southeastern Bangladesh, press reports said.

## Peru cabinet

Lima - Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller, the Peruvian prime minister-designate, proposed a cabinet including a marxist and conservatives, saying that the choices represented pragmatism, not ideology. (AFP)

## Brando accused

Papeete, French Polynesia - Cheyenne Brando, aged 20, the daughter of the actor Marlon Brando, was reportedly charged in connection with the murder of her boyfriend in Los Angeles. (AFP)

## Chemical blast

Cincinnati - About 1,000 people had to leave their homes after explosions ripped through a chemical plant here, killing one person and injuring more than 60. (AP)

## Firework deaths

Lisbon - Five workers were killed by an explosion in a fireworks factory in Fafe, northern Portugal. (AFP)

## Man executed

Richmond, Virginia - Richard Boggs, aged 27, who was convicted of murdering an elderly widow, died in the electric chair here after the Supreme Court denied him a stay of execution. (AFP)

## Children safer

Geneva - About 70 per cent of the world's children aged less than a year have now been immunised against the six main vaccine-preventable illnesses such as polio and diphtheria, the World Health Organisation said. (Reuters)



Suu Kyi: accused of endangering national security

## India and Pakistan play down war talk

From Christopher Thomas in Islamabad

INDIA and Pakistan yesterday denied that their unsuccessful talks on the uprising in Kashmir have heightened the immediate threat of war.

The denials reflect a mutual determination to dull the appetite for full-scale conflict that has gripped both countries on and off for the past six months. Both countries, however, seem resigned to a long breach in relations accompanied by the constant spectre of armed fighting in Kashmir.

The only respite that either side foresees will come in three months when the first snows arrive, sealing the mountainous and forested border more effectively than any army could.

Pakistani officials said that it had been decided at the highest levels that Pakistan would not launch a first strike against India. They added, however, that there was deep concern about a substantial increase in India's security presence in Kashmir, now estimated at 350,000 men.

They alleged that three Indian army divisions had been positioned in southern areas

of Kashmir where there was no insurgency. The size of India's military presence reflects its assessment of Pakistan's capabilities in Kashmir. Senior military officers in Delhi said it would be a mistake to think that India could inflict a short sharp defeat on Pakistan, despite the large differences in the size of their forces.

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# Inter-faith the great healer

Clifford Longley

One of the last acts of the Polish parliament in 1939, as German guns thundered ever closer, was to elect the Blessed Virgin Mary to be Queen of Poland in perpetuity. There could be no more poignant demonstration of the intense relationship between religion and national pride.

In the same spirit Pope John Paul II insisted in 1978 that regardless of the rules of heraldry, he wanted a large M on his coat of arms, for Mary, Queen of Poland. Addressing Polish émigrés during his visit to Britain in 1982, he paid tribute to the Polish people who died in the Battle of Britain. He did not say they had died "defending Britain", but "for Poland". And that is how Poles had seen it: they had borrowed the British war to continue their own.

During Eastern Europe's years of communist rule, the West saw religion and national pride as a force threatening the cohesion of the Soviet empire, and hence as potentially pro-Western. But the end of that empire, at least outside the Soviet Union itself, has changed the situation. The 1989 East European revolutions were as much a triumph of nationalism as of democracy, and Europe has yet to face up to the consequences.

Nationalism is seldom entirely secular, and seldom fits easily into secular political geography. Political maps tell us much less about the past, present and future of Europe than religious maps charting the frontiers of Protestantism and Catholicism, Orthodoxy and Islam. The reunification of Germany across the first of those lines is a triumph of nationalism over religious differences — or perhaps, more truthfully, a triumph of decades of ecumenism, which is the one new force which may yet prevent the history of European tribal warfare repeating itself.

Within Russia and the Ukraine there is an invisible line between two sorts of Orthodoxy, one looking to Constantinople, the other to Moscow. And the Great Schism between Greek Orthodoxy and Catholicism, which formally dates from the 11th century but in reality from 500 years earlier, is now the cause of one of Mr Gorbachev's worst headaches, as growing Ukrainian nationalism finds a ready focus in Ukrainian Catholicism. There will be much agonised thought before the Pope is welcome in Kiev, in case he is seen to some very dry nationalist tinter (intentionally or otherwise). The election of a Polish pope in 1978 was crucial to the rise of the Solidarity movement and was one of the first signs of the East European nationalist avalanche.

The Russian Orthodox Church has sought to outmanoeuvre the rising religious force in Ukrainian nationalism by renaming its own Ukrainian region the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, hijacking the title of the church now emerging from the shadows alongside the

Catholics. But the Russian Orthodox Church is Soviet-orientated, even in its new Ukrainian disguise. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Catholics were persecuted and driven underground during the years of Stalin's oppression because they were anti-Soviet; some Ukrainian churches even welcomed the arrival of Hitler's troops as liberators (before they realised their mistake).

Yet thanks to ecumenism, the Russian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic churches — and even the real Ukrainian Orthodox Church — have been making great efforts to settle their differences peacefully.

In Europe and the Middle East, countries on the tide mark of the Ottoman Empire find themselves standing on the rim of a rumbling religious and racial volcano, where Christian (usually Orthodox) nationalism collides with an increasingly militant Islam. Elsewhere, however, there are grounds for hope.

Since the war, the modern ecumenical movement has transformed Catholic-Protestant relationships almost everywhere except in Ireland, where its influence has largely been confined to the clergy. The success of ecumenism, the painstaking and often tedious building of understanding and co-operation brick by brick, explains why the religious dimension of German reunification has had a benign effect — why, for instance, Herr Kohl's mainly Catholic Christian Democrats feel confident they can cross the confessional divide into mainly Protestant Prussia without religious obstacles. And while political barriers were still in place, the tentacles of ecumenical friendship spread through the whole of Eastern Europe, with the churches beginning to be incorporated into a common European home before any other national institutions. A united Europe from the Urals to Gibraltar was a Christian hope and vision even in Brezhnev's day.

Though little noticed in Britain, the most vital of all ecumenical bridges may yet prove to be that between Catholicism and Orthodoxy, in which both sides have invested heavily over the last decade. Along with race and language, religious division has the potential to splinter Eastern Europe into dangerously sharp fragments; but ecumenical goodwill and co-operation may work to hold things together.

The local clergy can either stand behind the stone-throwing crowds, condoning ethnic mayhem, or they can stand together, urging peace, making connections, cooling tempers. Thanks to ecumenism, they are now much more likely to do the latter. For years ecumenical dialogue was regarded as a hobby for the few, who often found themselves dismissed as "ecumenicals", but now they may hold an important key to future peace in Europe.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

Nicholas Ridley's political demise raises again an environmental hazard which the health and safety executive resolutely refuses to face: the decommissioning of public figures.

We have heard about dismantling those "aging reactors", but what about the ageing reactionaries? The half-life of a redundant magnate core is well-known, but how much do we know about the half-lives of the redundant Marxist hard-core? Even the soft-core poses dangers of low-level socialist waste. Tony Benn remains highly radioactive, not to say television-active.

Mr Ridley must be the prime cause of public anxiety. This impressive but volatile reactor is now smoking quietly in a field in Cirencester and Tewkesbury while officials from Conservative central office pace gingerly around the site, keeping their distance and wondering how best to limit further damage. The danger of total meltdown has probably passed, but nobody can be sure when a sudden escape of toxic gas may not embarrass the lady who first installed him.

Look, after all, at the Enoch Powell reactor. A rapid decommissioning technique backfired, the Powell becoming far more dangerous after they tried to switch it off than when in service. Years later, one blast from the old powerhouse was enough to turn a general election against the Tories.

Or the "Barbara" Castle. They never did succeed in closing this institution. Dismantled and reassembled in Strasbourg, it continued to draw admirers of "the old Labour party", distracting attention from the new one. Now it goes on permanent exhibition in the House of Lords.

With other public figures, the Lords has proved an effective way of cooling hot metal slowly, to prevent explosions and fractures. The occasional low rumbling comes from Jim Callaghan, but Alec Douglas-Home and Willie Whitelaw have become favourites with visitors and are safe even for children to visit.

Quintin Hogg, however,

should be approached with caution. Harold Macmillan provides the warning, here. After decades of inactivity, this elderly generator suddenly emitted a series of huge shocks. So remember: if you see an unattended elder statesman on a train, don't touch it, don't try to remove it, inform the authorities as soon as possible, and keep well clear.

But I am not worried about Mrs Thatcher. This powerhouse will carry on in full production until somebody cuts the mains, whereupon it will turn into a harmless, long-lived, but surprisingly dull Westminster landmark. I am reminded of what they foresaw for the old Billingsgate fish market. It remained erect upon its foundations, said the experts, only because its huge refrigerators, working day and night, had frozen the ground around it. Once switched off, everything would thaw and the whole thing would slip with a sudden grace into the mud. So might she.

Unlike Mr Heath, this dangerous structure stands unmoved while from time to time bits of him drop on people's heads. Or Denis Healey. This great power station, like the one at Battersea, has been removed from the national grid but remains an imposing monument. It seems such a waste. From time to time there have been plans to put the structure to some new use, but nobody is sure what.

An early experiment with that Chingford Chernobyl, Norman Tebbit, has yielded uncertain results. The City acquired the institution with a view to turning it to peaceful use, yet this has not prevented the emission of jets of scalding steam.

As for the Ridley, I am advised that, encased in concrete by *The Spectator*, surrounded by gardens, plastered all over with the balm of prime ministerial gratitude and the detoxifying filter of a long holiday painting watercolours, shrouded in press boredom, and then buried beneath a million tons of public amnesia, he may just be made safe for succeeding generations. But with this reactor, nothing is certain.

Stuart Maclure on John MacGregor's performance in his first year as education secretary

# Attention to detail is paying off

The government has invested heavily in reform of the education system, so naturally it is watching anxiously for signs of progress. How are things doing? What sort of end-of-term report is in store for the education secretary, John MacGregor?

It is just over a year since he took over the department of education and science from Kenneth Baker. By the time he arrived, Baker had completed the glamorous job of pushing through the Education Reform Act. What remained for Mr MacGregor was the hard graft of implementation: putting the secondary legislation in place, bringing in the provisions of the Act stage by stage, and making the necessary adjustments.

John MacGregor is a highly competent Scot, perfect for the patient attention to detail that is now required. He has spent the year working doggedly on the national curriculum, local management of schools, operation of the provisions for grant-maintained schools and opt-out, and on the financing of higher education. He pushed through the Student Loans Act against opposition from the vice-chancellors,

and has worked hard for the better understanding between the education and employment departments which is essential if education and training for those aged 16 to 18 are ever to be coherent.

This adds up to a pretty good record, but is it enough or do his colleagues want miracles? A report in *The Times* on Monday suggested that there is murmuring against Mr MacGregor in some Tory circles. Right-wing orthodoxy is that "managerial" ministers are always liable to be seduced by the administrators and practitioners, and that this is particularly true in education.

Mr MacGregor has approached the task of implementing the national curriculum as a practical man. He has simplified the requirements for primary-school testing and assessment, and begun to ask what compromises will be needed to fit a quart into a pint pot for 14-16 year olds. To some observers on the lookout for any sign of weakening, this looks like backing down in the face of professional opposition. But they are wrong and he is right.

Other critics have had a field-

day with the balance in the history curriculum between knowledge and understanding. For obvious and sensible reasons, the working group set up by Mr Baker was anxious to avoid a set of state-prescribed facts which every student had to learn, and this meant that it was unwilling, in preparing assessment schemes, to separate knowledge and understanding. Mr MacGregor has yet to give his verdict, but whatever he does will not assuage his critics.

The history controversy demonstrates what a political minefield the curriculum is liable to become. History is (among other things) about the sense of national identity, the fostering of a positive self-image as Britons, making children believe they are uniquely lucky to live here. Nation-states depend on such fictions, but it would hardly be decent to spell all this out in the objectives for a national curriculum, so the debate is at one remove from reality.

On grant-maintained schools, Mr MacGregor has little dramatic to report: 44 have been allowed to opt out of local authority control, and a further 26 are waiting to do so or considering the matter.

Nobody should call this a rapid build-up. Most have decided to opt out only to avoid being closed or merged in local reorganisations. No doubt some of the schemes frustrated in this way were bad and would not have been approved, but in other cases there was a simple clash between the interests of a single school and the local authority's estimate of the best interests of all children in the area.

Opening out has failed to catch the public imagination in the way Mrs Thatcher hoped when she drew parallels with people buying their own council houses. Recently she spoke about ways to make it more attractive, but the more Mr MacGregor curbs local authority power to hold back funds for central administration, the less financially rewarding opting out will be. Without some new initiative there is unlikely to be more than a trickle of applications.

Preparations for the next Tory manifesto are now beginning, and the emphasis is on continuing with strategies aimed at empowering parents and extending choice. The question now is how long it will take to deliver the goods. Parents are only now discovering

that they have more say, and in many parts of the country as they flex their muscles they will find they are up against a shortage of teachers in key subjects. The national curriculum will take 10 years to make a real impact. There will be few quick dividends.

One ambition must be to reduce the gap between the public and independent sectors. In some leafy suburbs and country towns parents are satisfied with the local schools. Grant-maintained schools may find a social niche which appeals to middle-class parents. City technology colleges will be popular and in some cases extremely good, but will be few and far between. Sixth-form colleges and tertiary colleges already draw up to 25 per cent of their students from independent schools, and they are clearly able to deliver a service that families value. But money still talks: if you send your son or daughter to a school which charges 50 or 100 per cent more than your local secondary school is able to spend, the difference will show.

The author was formerly editor of the *Times Educational Supplement*.

# When Britain stood apart yet thought in harmony

It is clear that by a decisive majority the British people now favour a political and economic union with Europe, even if it results in a partial loss of sovereignty, and that opposition to it is only a rear-guard action in a lost battle. But it is equally clear that the British do not realise that a revolution this is in the national outlook.

It is a total and surprising rejection of the historical evolution which created English nationalism in 300 years and sustained it for a further 300. This nationalism first appeared in the reign of Edward III with the Statute of Praemunire of 1353, which gave expression to English resentment at the exercise of any foreign jurisdiction in England. Thus, English nationalism and English literature are contemporaries. English nationalism reached maturity through Henry VIII's reformation and was consolidated by Oliver Cromwell, but even before that Shakespeare could write: "O England! model to thy inward greatness, like a little body with a mighty heart."

That was the voice not only of the victor of Agincourt, but of young English nationalism. This retained its uncompromising insularity until the middle of this century. The decision to go on fighting alone in 1940 was its last self-assertion. From the European point of view, that had no meaning.

This nationalism had given the English a bad name among the nations of Europe. Even so detached a European thinker as Montesquieu could write that insularity gave the English an arrogant assertiveness which made them feared in Europe. The anthem *Rule Britannia* did not deceive the Europeans into believing that the sole purpose of British sea-power was to prevent Britons from becoming slaves to foreign nations. More realistically, though rather maliciously, they thought this power was intended to oppress weak peoples through commercial imperialism and to fight other strong nations out of rivalry. Even the gentle French poet André Chénier described Britain as *cette île farouche*.

The European view of the matter did not make the British less staunch nationalists, but now this nationalism is to be thrown



Nirad Chaudhuri believes our greatest cultural impact on Europe was in the days of nationalist isolation

overboard. Such a thing cannot happen without ineluctable psychological compulsions, but in the public debate about the question there is no confession of these, and perhaps not even an awareness. It is all word-mongering and setting out of shallow arguments, and these must be tested against their historical antecedents. No one in Britain should be so naive as to think that their country can become more powerful, wealthy, or industrially efficient by this merger than it was in its nationalistic isolation. Nor should anyone hope or believe that a united states of Europe will raise European civilisation to a greater height by creating a wider and deeper interaction between the English and the European mind.

It may be admitted that in the present stage of historical evolution all the nations of Europe need political and economic union in order to preserve, not increase, material prosperity. But there can

be no intangible gain for these nations from such union. On the contrary, one is startled to find that in spite of the growth of internationalism, the interaction between the English mind and the European mind has virtually ceased today, whereas in the days of nationalist isolation in political affairs, intellectual co-operation actively created a common European cultural life.

In this respect, the contrast between the past and the present is saddening. No British thinker today can hope to make an impact on European thinking even remotely comparable to that of Locke or Hume; on a personal level, they, with Gibbon, were received in Europe with an enthusiasm which no present British thinker or writer could expect.

But the British impact was not in the sphere of thought alone; it extended to literature and art. No English writer now can exert the influence of Scott or Byron in their

day, and the case of Scott is the more significant because he was not only British but very Scottish. Yet he inspired one of the greatest novels of European literature, Manzoni's *I promessi sposi*, and influenced European historiography as well. His *Rob Roy* made the French historian Augustin Thierry write the history of the Norman conquest of England, while in Germany von Ranke was led by *Quentin Durward* to found the new German scientific school of history. Such an impact is inconceivable today.

The British, for their part, were more European-minded in the days of their notorious insularity than they are now with their new "Europeanism". In the 16th century they became thoroughly Italianate, and this penchant for Italy continued until the end of the 19th century (English middle-class girls, for instance, sang Italian songs in Italian). In the 17th century the British looked to

Europe for religious doctrine. In the 18th they became participants in European classicism as well as the European Enlightenment, and in the 19th they succumbed to German romanticism, philosophy, classical and biblical scholarship, and, of course, music.

In those days distinguished English writers introduced important or significant European writers to their general educated public, and even we in Bengal profited from these essays. At school and in my early university days, I myself learned about Alfred de Vigny from an essay by John Stuart Mill and about Manon and Eugénie de Guérin as well as Joazeff from the essays by Matthew Arnold. I also learned about von Ranke from an essay by Macaulay. Today English men of letters do not render this service to their readers.

So when one considers the present situation, it is a shocking fact that Europe in the intellectual sphere and drawing towards Europe in the political and economic one is almost shocked by the contradiction. Yet in the light of the historical evolution of the British people, the seeming opposites can be recognised as correlatives and complements.

Historically, Britain is an aged nation, and an aged nation behaves like an aged individual. When a man is in the full vigour of life he pursues his ambitions or vocation with self-reliance, sensitivity to ideas and feelings which enhance the quality of life, and with indifference to his physical condition, which he leaves to take care of itself. Old men, by contrast, lose both self-confidence and sense of vocation, become anxious about their existence and confabulate with other old men about their physical ailments.

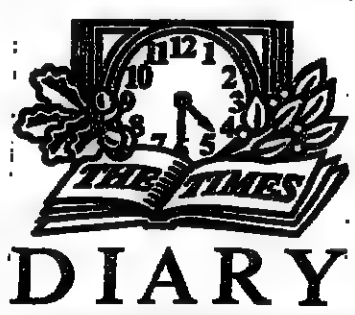
The British are behaving in exactly this manner by being obsessed with the infrastructure of their national existence, which provides the real pressure behind the movement towards Europe. There is nothing unnatural or shameful in this behaviour, but it is not one to open a new phase of life for the British people.

Nirad Chaudhuri, author of *The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian and Thy Hand, Great Anarch*, has made his home in Britain since 1970.

be extended beyond five years. This is how it works. The present parliament was formed (as opposed to elected) on June 17, 1987, which means that the government can go on until midnight on June 16, 1992. The electoral timetable then allows specified periods for nomination and notice, which take us through to a polling date of Thursday, July 9. In other words, an administration convinced that it is doomed can in effect steal almost an entire month after its allotted five years.

The situation is not quite unprecedented. Sir Alec Douglas-Home went to the country on October 15, 1964, five years and one week to the day after Macmillan had been re-elected in 1959. But even if Mrs Thatcher sees this one through to the bitter end, she would have to win again and soldier on until the end of 1992 to overtake Lord Salisbury in length of service as PM, and it would take a further 18 months to pass Lord Liverpool. To beat Walpole, she would need to stay at No 10 until the year 2000. Now there's a thought...

Only this week, indeed, Mrs Thatcher was asking for suggestions on how the arrival of the millennium can be celebrated — a suggestion that her continued presence in Downing Street would be the best of all possible celebrations, and instead, based on what she suggested a wagnerian army of street-cleaners. Many fear that if up to our necks, *Diary readers* can surely think of more imaginative ways to mark the year 2000.



at the prospect of the *Independent* securing a wealthy new American backer. The Americans, for their part, are so amazed at the recklessness of Britain's new newspaper proprietors that they may just go on backing the existing *Correspondent* until a better offer comes along. They at least can afford it.

**Music of time**  
The Café de Paris in London's Coventry Street, which closes tonight before the redevelopers move in, must seem positively passé to the present disco generation, but what

Would you mind showing a bit more leg?

a host of memories it evokes among those who knew it during its prewar heyday. The Duke of Windsor, when Prince of Wales, danced the Charleston there. Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh, Charlie Chaplin and Sophie Tucker were regulars. Marlene Dietrich had a brush there with an unfortunate photographer who asked her to show a bit of leg as in the film *The Blue Angel*.

The listed building is full of memorabilia of its famous clients, all of which will tomorrow be put into storage on the outside chance that the phoenix might arise from the ashes. "We are still in the business of running dance halls, and if a suitable West End site close by becomes available we shall look at it," says Alan Randall of Mecca Leisure, the owners.

"But the Café was unique. It straddled six decades of changing dance style and still remained the place to be seen." Whatever happens, the ghosts will still be tea dancing long after the lambada has thankfully been forgotten.

**And on and on**  
Not a few eyebrows were raised when the prime minister told Tory MPs this week that she might well delay the general election until the last possible date: July 9, 1992. Most recalled that they had been elected on June 11, 1987, and those not versed in constitutional law assumed quite reasonably that at best this guaranteed them a job until June 10, 1992. But the House of Commons library confirms that, as usual, Mrs Thatcher is correct, and the self-dated one parliament can quite legitimately

The decision to drop the subject is a lesson for B... Only an examination of... side of the Turner came... clearly once a language... needed more than good... detail to revive it... language of Britain... small... enjoying a revival. Although... there are pockets — in... where it still... language for some families... radio and TV programmes... Edinburgh... some... now send their hearts to... Higher battles are be... the beginning of the cent... five just over 50,000 a... census in 1981. Whether it... are arrested will not be i... Walker founded the We... two years ago to draw up... ethnic profiles in Wals... slimmer than in Cornwall... been a fishwife who died... years ago. The Cornish... attempted to rescue the... about 2,000 people now... Cornish. A language need...





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## SPORT IN THE BEARPIT

The impending visit to South Africa of Sam Ramsamy, who has been commissioned by the International Olympic Committee to assess the racial politics of sport in the republic, is unlikely to herald a magnanimous gesture in response to President F. W. de Klerk's gradual but systematic repudiation of the old Afrikaner order. Pretoria will have had few illusions. Mr Ramsamy, chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, is a veteran of the campaign to isolate South African sport.

By appointing him, the arbiters of participation in the Olympic Games are signalling that they have no intention of readmitting South Africa until black majority rule is established. The Gleneagles accord remains in force. There is little prospect of the cricketing authorities — terrified of losing lucrative tours to non-white countries — lifting their boycott. South Africa retains a seat on rugby's ruling body, but only in the sense that Banquo had a seat at Macbeth's table.

The sporting boycott, unlike other sanctions, has impinged on South African whites. It has also been effective in breaking down much formal, and some informal, racial discrimination. For that reason, anti-apartheid campaigners argue, the vice should not be loosened. That argument has convinced many who are critical of sanctions in general. As long as Nelson Mandela and other black leaders wish the rest of the world to continue to isolate South African sport, the ban will remain.

The aborted unofficial cricket tour led by Mike Gatting earlier this year was the exception that proved this rule. With hindsight, that tour can be seen as a clumsy attempt to break apartheid's cordon sanitaire, or at least it came a year too soon. The boldness of Mr de Klerk's proposed changes was not as evident as it has since become, and most people could not yet contemplate the resumption of sporting links with the outside world.

Now the threat of an authoritarian white backlash is sufficiently grave to give even the sternest critic of Pretoria cause to ponder the best approach to isolationism. Mr de Klerk may have successfully stolen the clothes of white South African liberals. If he loses touch

with mainstream Afrikaner opinion, the president could yet fail and give way to forces less hospitable to gradual change.

The art of compromise which he must display in the coming months, as one bulwark of apartheid after another collapses, requires that he be able to show his enemies to the right that the outside world understands the need for change and that change offers its own rewards. If those outside South Africa deny Mr de Klerk even symbolic encouragement — and there is no encouragement more symbolic than in sport — he will no longer be seen to be negotiating from strength.

An additional irony to the boycott is that the isolation of some South African sports affects more blacks than whites, notably athletics, boxing and the predominantly black sport of soccer. All have abolished apartheid. Of the two remaining apartheid laws which can be said to affect sport, the Separate Amenities Act is due to be abolished soon. The Group Areas Act may survive for longer, but it too has been slated for abolition. Short of a right-wing rebellion, which is not a pure figment of the imagination, formal segregation is certain to go. It is difficult to justify penalising sports which are played by the underdogs of the apartheid system and which forces dozens of talented (black) South African footballers to seek their fortunes abroad.

Aware of this state of affairs, football's international body Fifa is reported to be considering the readmission of South Africa. If Fifa were to take that step, perhaps on a symbolic date such as that of the abolition of the Separate Amenities Act, it would provide a real incentive for whites to see in desegregation throughout South Africa the advent not of revolution but of normality. Tolerance feeds on itself.

Sport is rooted in culture, and South African blacks and whites will doubtless display different sporting preferences. But to free sport from ideology is a precondition of real freedom of choice for individual sportsmen. The watching world should help to hoist one sport after another out of the bearpit of racial politics.

## KOREA BEGINS TO THAW

The permafrost zone of the Cold War lies on the 38th parallel of the Korean peninsula, along which runs a heavily fortified wilderness several miles deep. To the north of the demilitarised zone, there are more than a million troops. South Korea boasts a force of 600,000, backed by 43,000 American servicemen. No rail, telephone or even postal services cross the line; for four decades, there has been almost no contact between ten million divided families. North Koreans cannot even receive southern radio broadcasts, and South Korea's National Security Law punishes "unauthorised" visits north with heavy prison sentences.

These walls will not come tumbling down at the sound of a trumpet. Years of visits across the Berlin Wall preceded its dismantling, and the Koreans, unlike the Germans, fought each other for three years and are still technically at war. But cracks are discernible. North Korea's speedy dismissal as "fraudulent propaganda" of yesterday's offer by President Roh Tae Woo to open the border for five days next month was as predictable as Seoul's rejection of a similar, if more limited, North Korean gesture two weeks ago. Yet Pyongyang's rejection was qualified by demands for more steps to dismantle north-south barriers. The customary northern reference to Mr Roh as a "traitor" was significantly dropped.

South Korea's "nordpolitik" is beginning to hit its target. Seoul's strategy for reunification has been to break down Pyongyang's resistance by forging relations with North Korea's traditional allies. The first triumph came in 1988, when both the Soviet Union and China, the North's patrons, attended the Seoul Olympics. Since then, South Korea has established relations with most East European countries and infuriated North Korea's Kim Il Sung with a June summit in San Francisco between Mr Roh and President Gorbachev. Diplomatic progress is slower with Peking, but trade is booming, amounting to \$3.2 billion last year. Seoul has much to offer North Korea's

friends. President Kim's doctrine of self-reliance, far from producing the intended results, has made the once prosperous north dependent on Moscow (or Peking) for cash, goods and military hardware. Pyongyang's hardline communist solidarity has become an embarrassment to Moscow, and less relevant even to Peking. South Korea, by contrast, offers a source of investment and consumer goods and a large, stable market for Soviet raw materials: trade is climbing towards \$1 billion.

Moscow is also seeking North Korean permission to run a gas pipeline across its territory. The Korean giant, Hyundai, is planning a \$600 million investment in a Siberian petrochemical complex, and South Korean presidential advisers and businessmen already dream of a high-speed train link through Manchuria to the heart of Siberia.

North Korea, economically stagnant and increasingly isolated, has swung between loud denunciation, propaganda gestures and quiet, tentative, accommodation. Abroad, Pyongyang has started its own "sodpolitik", putting out feelers to West Germany and holding talks in Peking with the United States. Last month, for the first time, it handed over the remains of American GIs killed in the Korean War. At home, bicycles, hitherto outlawed as "vehicles of aesthetic pollution" have begun to appear on the capital's streets, cautious price reforms are being mooted and the odd pedlar and taxi have made their appearance, suggesting the beginnings of surrender to the "individualism" of private enterprise.

Next Thursday, a date, probably in September, will be set for the first meeting of North and South Korean prime ministers since the 1953 armistice. Almost certainly, the "great leader" will have to die, or be eased out of office, before such meetings bring about reunification. But some North Koreans, at least, are beginning to concede that the invitation ultimately permits of no refusal.

ACHUB EIN HIEITHOEDD  
SABHAIL AR CÂNAIN  
GWITH AGAN YETHOW

The decision to drop Cornish as a GCSE subject is a lesson for Britain's Celtic fringe. Only six examination candidates on the far side of the Tamar came forward in two years. Clearly once a language has died a natural death, more than good intentions will be needed to revive it.

Rearguard actions elsewhere to preserve the ancient languages of Britain have recently won some small victories. In Scotland Gaelic is enjoying a revival. Although only 80,000 speak it, there are pockets — in the Western Isles for instance — where it survives as the first language for some families. The Scottish Office recently budgeted £8 million for more Gaelic radio and TV programmes. Even in Glasgow and Edinburgh, some middle-class parents now send their bairns to all-Gaelic schools.

Mightier battles are being waged in Wales. About half of the principality spoke Welsh at the beginning of the century, but only one in five (just over 500,000) at the time of the last census in 1981. Whether the steady decline has been arrested will not be known until after next year's census. As Welsh secretary, Peter Walker founded the Welsh Language Board two years ago to draw up an official strategy.

Ethnic profiles in Wales and Scotland are sharper than in Cornwall. There, the last native Cornish-speaker is commonly believed to have been a fishwife who died in Mousehole 200 years ago. The Cornish Language Board has attempted to rescue the language but only about 2,000 people now claim to understand Cornish. A language needs more than scholastic

interest and curiosity. Where it still lives, it needs vigorous protection.

Visitors to Wales are already accustomed to seeing place names printed in two languages: Cardiff/Caerdydd, Swansea/Aberawr or Newtown/Y Drenewydd for example. The Welsh Language Board as part of its five-year plan has called for Welsh to have equal validity in law. Welsh has become almost chic as a result. Even in mid-Glamorgan, in relatively cosmopolitan southeast Wales, the popularity of all-Welsh nursery groups and schools is growing.

But if Welsh is to survive the next century, it will probably need legislation. The county of Dyfed in southwest Wales provoked hostility last year when it ordered that children in 200 primary schools in rural areas should be taught in Welsh up to the age of seven. These are largely Welsh-speaking areas and the requirement was an attempt to secure the language into the next century. What evidence there is suggests that to be brought up bilingual is no great handicap. Those from outside Wales who decide to live there must expect to lump it.

Whether even this is enough to save the Welsh language remains to be seen. The Irish Republic is officially bilingual and keeps Irish alive by making it compulsory for civil servants and for all children until they leave school. This has done little to popularise a near-extinct language. In Wales and Scotland, Celtic still lives, but a ruthless strategy may be needed if this invigorating aspect of Britain's cultural history is to be conserved.

Spotlight needed  
on British films

From Mr Nigel Havers

Sir, I have just read an article on British films which appeared in your columns in 1949. Even then, it was stated, the industry's future fortunes "will be decided by the success or failure of film producers' efforts to reduce costs and to increase the proportion of good films" (leading article, April 1, 1949).

Many of us are trying to do precisely that, but the resources available to Hollywood producers are simply not available in this country. It seems that little has changed in nearly half a century.

In 1949, however, 40 per cent of films shown in British cinemas had, by law, to be British films. The French, our partners in Europe, pursue a similar policy to support their industry.

As part of a production company which aims to produce British feature films of the highest possible standard, I appeal to the Government to think seriously about our cultural heritage.

Re-introducing a quota system would be a drastic step, probably opening up a tit-for-tat attitude with America that we could well do without. But it seems to me that a succession of governments over the last 41 years have been less than favourable to our industry, allowing our cinemas to be swamped with American products which, to put it kindly, have been often well below the standard that our own industry could easily produce.

This Government, under enormous pressure, has come up with a £5 million peace offering (report, June 16). Advertising campaigns often spend that amount of money on making half-a-dozen commercials. It is not just the Attenboroughs and Putnam's of this business who need to be consulted: what about the thousands of talented and eager producers, directors, actors and actresses in this country who need direct encouragement from the Government to put British films back on a global footing?

Yours sincerely,  
NIGEL HAVERS,  
125 Gloucester Road, SW7,  
July 18.

## Questioning suspects

From Mr Neville Sarony

Sir, Your leader, "French lesson for the law" (July 18), advocates involvement of the Crown Prosecution Service much earlier in the investigative process. My experience, both in the UK and in Hong Kong, proves that early involvement, particularly in complex commercial crimes, has been of enormous benefit to the prosecution.

However, the suggestion that the CPS lawyers should be able to question suspects and interview witnesses is impractical and fraught with potential problems. If the lawyers having the conduct of the case are directly involved in the investigative process this will inevitably negate their objective judgement, which is so vital a role in the machinery of criminal justice and which is one of the basic reasons for removing summary prosecutions from the hands of the police in the first place.

Secondly, participation in interviews of witnesses and a fortiori questioning of suspects involve the lawyer in the evidential aspects of the case and thus make him or her compellable as a witness, a situation which is wholly contrary to our tradition of professionally disinterested prosecutors.

Yours faithfully,  
NEVILLE SARONY,  
2 Harcourt Buildings,  
Temple, EC4.

## In the public eye

From Mr Robert Edwards

Sir, The Times, Guardian, Daily Telegraph, and almost every other national newspaper published on Tuesday what is surely a classic picture of the beleaguered Mr Nicholas Ridley peering round the wall of his Cotswold home at the posse of photographers outside.

One recommendation of the Calcutt committee is that it should be a criminal offence to take a photograph of an individual who is on private property, without his consent, with a view to its publication with intent that the individual shall be identifiable.

Quite a thought, is it not, that if this law was already on the statute book every single editor who published that photograph would have risked going to jail, including one distinguished member of the Calcutt committee?

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT EDWARDS,  
74 Duns Tew,  
Oxford,  
July 18.

## Dental contracts

From the Chairman of the General Dental Services Committee

Sir, Your correspondent Mr S. M. Daniell (July 16) says that a new NHS method of paying for children's dental care will be inappropriate in socially and dentally disadvantaged areas. He gives this as the reason for the recent referendum "no" to the new NHS contract. This is implausible.

There was majority support for the new contract in the north of England which, dentally, is much like Scotland and Northern Ireland where the vote went against. The vote suggests that there were non-dental influences on the referendum result, and demonstrates the frailty of a referendum as a decision-making tool.

## Benefits of health service reforms

From the Secretary of State for Health

Sir, Dr James LeFanu's article (July 18) on the changes taking place in the NHS and on GP fund-holding in particular is so confused and confusing that I must try to correct some of the misconceptions contained in it.

The budget-holding scheme gives GPs control of significant sums of NHS money. They will be free to refer patients where they judge best and make whatever contracts will best serve the interests of their patients.

There is nothing complex about this. The referral system will remain the same. But fund-holders will be in a much stronger position to specify to hospitals and consultants the quality of service which they expect their patients to receive because their referrals will be backed by NHS funds. And they will be better placed to make sure that their patients get the best value for money.

Dr LeFanu's assertions about the existing management costs of the NHS are ill-founded. The figure of 4 per cent of revenue budget for NHS administration costs is often quoted but is a myth. It relates only to the administration costs of health authority headquarters. It omits completely the cost of managing the hospitals, clinics and surgeries where the service is actually delivered. Nobody knows what the real management costs of the current system are.

## The county touch

From Mr G. A. J. Wankling

Sir, In a few weeks time members of the National Trust for England and Wales will receive their postal voting papers for the 1990 AGM. Among other things they will be asked to vote on a resolution submitted by myself and 37 other members which calls upon the council of the trust to "ensure that the traditional county names are used by the National Trust in all its literature, correspondence and audio-visual presentations and at all other times except when specifically referring to local government."

We believe that the traditional counties are as much a part of our heritage as the stately homes and stretches of beautiful countryside with which the trust is usually associated. They are far older than the administrative areas, confusingly also called "counties", with which the local government acts of the 1960s and '70s were concerned.

As a Department of the Environment spokesman, quoted in The Times of April 1, 1974 (the day on which the 1972 Local Government Act came into effect) put it: "They are administrative areas and will not alter the traditional boundaries of counties, nor is it intended that the loyalties of people living in them will change."

Unfortunately, Ordnance Survey, the Post Office and many local authorities have, without justification, changed their policies and now treat the administrative county as the main, or only, county. Sixteen years on, most people, often unwillingly, use the names of administrative areas when they are really referring to the geographical county. Although the DoE will admit to anyone who asks that the traditional counties remain unchanged, it states that it is not its responsibility to correct people's misapprehensions.

We believe that the National Trust should take the lead in correcting a mistake that has gone unchallenged for too long.

Yours faithfully,  
GERARD WANKLING,  
10 Woodville Estate,  
St Helier,  
Jersey,  
July 18.

## More than the 'Few'

From Mr Peter Erwood

Sir, The Battle of Britain was not an exclusive RAF victory, as is usually implied. Whatever the true number of enemy aircraft shot down may be, it is indisputable that a fair proportion of these were destroyed by anti-aircraft guns of the Royal Artillery.

The "Facts of the Battle" published in your Saturday Review on July 14 make no mention of this, which is an insult to the memory of the several thousand men, nearly all Territorial Army volunteers, and substantially either veterans of the first world war or 18-year-old boys who served the guns day and night (when RAF fighters were often conspicuous by their absence).

In addition, many of them (and I speak with personal experience of service at Dover throughout the battle) existed in conditions reminiscent of the Western Front in 1914-18, rather than the relatively comfortable barracks life enjoyed by the RAF, whether on or off duty.

I have the greatest respect for the bravery of the fighter pilots of the RAF, of which I witnessed many instances; but it really is time that their achievements are put into correct historical perspective. The adulation of "The Few" (which is, I am sure, not of their own seeking) ought now to be superseded by the more appropriate appreciation of the fact that we were all in it together, and that everyone in the battle — servicemen and civilians, fliers and non-fliers — all played their part as the fortunes of war dictated.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER ERWOOD,  
The Manse, Old Main Road,  
Fleet Hargate,  
Spalding, Lincolnshire,  
July 19.

Language teaching  
From Professor A. J. Pointon  
Sir, Dr Alan Bullock (July 12) states that it is not possible to teach and examine a student of Italian at PhD level (i.e. after six years' study of the language) in the medium of the Italian language. From my experience, I know that it is possible to teach and examine (orally and in writing) French students of physics in English at Masters' level.

What is Dr Bullock trying to tell us about the teaching of foreign-language students in English higher education? Would he argue that, while it is valid to expect French students to be able to learn to answer questions on physics through the medium of English which they are studying casually, it is not valid to expect them to answer questions on Shakespeare in English which they are studying full-time?

Yours faithfully,  
A. J. POINTON,  
Portsmouth Polytechnic,  
Department of Applied Physics  
and Physical Electronics,  
Park Building,  
King Henry I Street,  
Portsmouth, Hampshire.

## Benefits of health service reforms

From the Secretary of State for Health

Dr LeFanu is equally incorrect in his assertion that far more lawyers and accountants will be needed to help fund-holders. There will be a need for better and tighter management all round and we are making the necessary investment. But the cost of this will be more than paid for by the benefits it brings in improving the quality and quantity of care the NHS can provide. There will also be additional work for fund-holders but fund-holding practices will be able to claim an allowance of £32,000 a year to help meet the costs incurred.

The acid test of confidence in the scheme is the number of GPs coming forward. Dr LeFanu is out of step with his colleagues who see the potential benefits. About 950 practices have expressed interest in the scheme; a significant number of those eligible to become fund-holders. And about 400 practices are now committed to undertaking the preparatory work to become fund-holders from April 1 next year.

I am sure that GPs in those practices have made their choice because they will be able to play an even more significant role in improving the quality of care for patients.

Yours sincerely,  
KENNETH CLARKE,  
Department of Health,  
Richmond House,  
79 Whitehall, SW1,  
July 19.

put it: "They are administrative areas and will not alter the traditional boundaries of counties, nor is it intended that the loyalties of people living in them will change."

Unfortunately, Ordnance Survey, the Post Office and many local authorities have, without justification, changed their policies and now treat the administrative county as the main, or only, county. Sixteen years on, most people, often unwillingly, use the names of administrative areas when they are really referring to the geographical county. Although the DoE will admit to anyone who asks that the traditional counties remain unchanged, it states that it is not its responsibility to correct people's misapprehensions.

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GERARD WANKLING,  
10 Woodville Estate,  
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July 18.

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Yours faithfully,  
PETER ERWOOD,  
The Manse, Old Main Road,  
Fleet Hargate,  
Spalding, Lincolnshire,  
July 19.

British Council funds  
From the President of the Royal Anthropological Institute and others

Sir, We are concerned to learn that, owing to a change of priorities in the British Council's budget, it will probably soon suspend all its traditional programmes, such as cultural exchanges and visits, in the South Pacific. Momentous changes elsewhere in the world have pushed this region out of our news media and near the edge of our political map.

Yet British culture has a strong presence in such countries as Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. To withdraw the relatively small sums of money needed to maintain that presence would surely be irresponsible — and would lend some justification, too, to those who argue that the Commonwealth is a dead letter.

Yours etc.,  
ERIC SUNDERLAND,  
President,  
RAYMOND FIRTH,  
Marilyn Strathern,  
Royal Anthropological Institute,  
50 Fitzroy Street, W1.

family dentists: "The GDSC as a whole will not reach a decision until the wishes of practitioners are known, through a referendum and through the Conference of Local Dental Committees. The GDSC will meet on July 7 to make a final decision on acceptance or rejection." The GDSC never said it would be bound by the referendum result.

In the event, the Conference of Local Dental Committees, our biggest representative gathering, supported the contract and that is how the GDSC voted, too.

Yours etc.,  
KEITH OSTERLOH, Chairman,  
General Dental Services  
Committee,  
64 Wimpole Street, W1,  
July 17.

Concern to keep  
country barns

From Mrs Mary J. Boughton

Sir, The answer to Yvonne Thomas's question, "Too late to shut the barn door?" (article, July 14) is quite simply — Yes, much too late.

In this district there are few old stone barns left to preserve, conserve, or even to convert. As has become all too common in recent years every available barn, used or unused, has been converted into houses, many of them second homes.

We have not only lost the barns, with their historic and aesthetic individuality, but now have in their place mainly houses which are unloved in for most of the year and therefore contribute nothing to the community. None is within the price range of local young people. Although the very last barn was a listed building, this made no difference at all.

Blame must lie with the planning authorities, particularly the appeal processes. If conservation is to be effective the local planning authority must be given sharp teeth and be certain that refusal of applications will not, almost certainly, be overturned on appeal.

Villages are living, working communities, often struggling to survive in these times of urbanisation and centralisation. Everybody who buys a second home or a retirement home in the country should remember that the chances are that it will be a converted barn or a farmworker's dwelling that they are moving into.

Yours sincerely,  
M. J. BOUGHTON,  
Gullivers, Shipton Gorge,  
Bridport, Dorset,  
July 17.

From Mrs Janet Coenen

Sir, Having converted a barn for my own use, illustrated in your "Weekend Living", I have come to some conclusions. Not all barns are necessarily stately or even aesthetically pleasing. Standards should be established to determine whether a barn is "unique" in some way. If it is, it should then, through the collaboration of owner, local authority, etc., be protected and maintained, preferably to continue as an agricultural building. If it is genuinely redundant, an alternative use should be found, connected with the community, location permitting.

Such designated buildings should not under any circumstances have a change of use to "dwellings" because I do not see how, realistically, such a change of identity, with totally different practical and emotional considerations, can be made without "sacrifices". Barns meriting preservation should remain authentic in their design and use, ultimately taking their place as monuments to an earlier agricultural society and serving as a vital continuing link with the past.

The barn which I converted, however, fell squarely into the "un-unique" category, its only point of interest being a decaying wooden arch in the entrance (now restored). A neighbour best summed up its general condition: "It will take a miracle to make something out of that ruin". Well, not exactly a miracle, but hard work, cooperation, quality materials and skilled workmanship.

What has evolved is a stone-clad building, designed in traditional lines, with hopefully an aura of humanity rather than sterility. Any stoniness my barn may have is recently acquired.

Yours truly,  
JANET COENEN,  
Westcombe Barn,  
Dartington, South Devon,  
July 17.

## Rejoinder on Kenya

From the Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service

Sir, That we have problems in Kenya is not in dispute, but they are not as Christopher Walker ("Is Britain too soft on Moi?", July 19) has presented them.

The Kikuyu are not a majority in the country. Peace returned well over a week ago and violence is not threatening "to spill on to the streets". Hooliganism was, I might add, a large part of the original problem.

A lot is being done to address the problems but it takes a little time. However, what Mr Walker, perhaps unwittingly, does reveal is that we do have an open society here in Kenya in which views are expressed in all sections of the community. If that message comes through his writings he might even have done us a favour.

Yours etc.,  
RICHARD LEAKEY,  
Kenya Wildlife Service,  
PO Box 40241,  
Nairobi,  
Kenya,  
July 19.

## Third force

From Mr Stewart Reuben

Sir, I note that of the people continuing education in England and Wales after 16, 52.4 per cent are girls and 41.7 per cent boys (report July 20). If the remaining 5.9 per cent are computers, I am disappointed that 10-year-old machines perform so well in our examination system.

Yours faithfully,  
S. REUBEN,  
11 Haversham Close,  
Cambridge Park,  
Twickenham,  
Middlesex.











# A marathon life with never a meal to fix

Home from home: Sir James Savile

JIMMY, now Sir James, Savile has seven residences — nine, if you count his two caravans. But, he says: "I haven't got any homes, and I'm quite happy without them. I'm the archetypal single fellow."

He has cleaners and housekeepers, however, in six of his seven residences. "They are all immaculate and neat and clean," he says. "They're not grimy bachelor pads."

He thinks of them merely as "beds sited in convenient places", and says that he hasn't slept in the same bed three nights running in 30 years. He certainly moves about a lot — running marathons (he has run more than 170 and his biggest single sponsorship was the £100,000 he raised for the British Heart Foundation last year, by completing the London Marathon), or training, or driving his Rolls-Royce between Leeds (where he was born, and owns a three-bedroomed flat), Scarborough (where he owns another three-bedroomed flat), Peterborough (where he owns a two-

bedroomed flat), Bournemouth (where he owns another two-bedroomed flat), Regent's Park (where he owns a studio flat) Broadmoor Hospital (where he keeps a room), Stoke Mandeville Hospital (where he has had the same room for 23 years), and his two 36ft caravans, which are permanently parked in Dorset and Devon and are available free for holidays for patients and their families from the hospitals where he works as a "volunteer helper".

"To say 'Here is a man with seven homes', sounds as if you're acquisitive," he says, "but it is much more convenient to have a bed in a flat than to use a hotel. And if two of them are hospital beds I can't be very fussy, can I?"

His collection of residences is justified, he feels, by a seven-day working week that is never the same two weeks in a row. "I've got beds in Leeds because I work at Leeds Infirmary. I've got beds in Scarborough because that is my favourite coastal resort. Then I got a bed surrounded by a flat in Peterborough because I'm a

consultant for Thomas Cook, the travel people, who have their headquarters there.

"I have a place in Regent's Park for when I'm recording *Jim'll Fix It*, and the beauty of the London place is that it has a garage big enough to take a Rolls-Royce — and that's more of a luxury in London than a bed. Then I have a typical nurses' home room at Stoke Mandeville, which the hospital gave me because they felt I could be useful to them. It was a very good business move, seeing I have just given them a magnetic resonance imaging machine worth £1.2 million. In Broadmoor I have a room above my office, so I can work day and night, and in Bournemouth there is a flat I bought when my mother was alive, and I was looking for a place for her to spend the winter."

He has no pets or pot plants to tie him down and carries his "registered office" in a briefcase. "I have no secretary and no driver. My mail is answered at each place it comes to, but nothing comes to my private addresses. Each place contains all the basic essentials I need."

Basic essentials for the flamboyant disc jockey, television personality and fund-raiser may include lane track suits, running shoes, cigars and flashy jewellery, but they most emphatically do not include anything to cook with. Hospital cooking suits him just fine, as does almost any cooking someone else has done for him, he says. "The people who came to put in the kitchen at Leeds couldn't believe it when I asked them to design it without an oven," he says. "They said, 'What if you want to sell it?' He likes food to money. 'It's not important as long as there is plenty of it around.'"

The newly knighted Sir James ("I still can't get used to it") is more aware than most of the silver linings that can lurk in inauspicious-looking clouds. An accident during his early career as a miner left him with a spinal injury that might have crippled him for life, yet led to his first work as a disc jockey, and his lengthy association with the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, for which he has so far raised £10 million.

He keeps his bicycle in the 12ft by 8ft room in Stoke Mandeville. There is a sink, he has his own private bathroom in the corridor outside, and the room is served by three telephones but it seems a spartan and soulless existence.

Sir James vehemently disagrees. "Hospitals are a 24-hour club," he says. "Discos close, but in hospitals there is always somebody awake."

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Not cooking: Sir James Savile in the hobless kitchen of his Leeds flat



Concentration: Alan Stockwell, a golfer turned croquet addict, says the tactics demand physical skill and brain-power

## Going through the hoops

Croquet is booming, with more than 350,000

players in Britain. Geraldine Ranson reports

on moves to make it big on the box as well

From the moment Alan Stockwell first handled a croquet mallet he never played golf again. His wife had seen a poster advertising a course of six lessons and he had gone along half-heartedly, thinking it would be a nice sport for her to take up, leaving him free to enjoy his golf. By the end of the initial tuition he was hooked — and found himself secretary of the newly formed Vine Road Croquet Club in Barnes, west London.

Croquet is booming. Of the 151 clubs registered with the Croquet Association, 66 have opened since 1985. More than 350,000 people play regularly in the season between April and October, and every year there are more recruits.

Vine Road is about a mile from both Hurlingham and Roehampton, the meccas of association croquet, but the ethos of this small club is quite different. Squeezed between two busy railway lines, it was once a bowling green, but the lawns have been re-marked to make four "short lawns" for croquet. The flower beds, neat privet hedges and smooth turf are maintained by the borough of Richmond, and the 30 members pay a subscription of £30 per season.

Mr Stockwell's first six lessons were at the end of the summer of 1987 and he spent the winter reading everything he could about

association croquet. The game bears as much resemblance to the one people play in the back garden as clock golf to a round on an 18-hole course. It is a game as much of tactics as of physical skill, like a mix of chess and snooker, played on a lawn twice the size of a tennis court. Each player or team has two balls, traditionally either black and blue, or red and yellow, allowing many more possibilities of roqueting opponents' balls off course. The tactics become so complicated that once a player has mastered them he or she moves into another league.

By the spring of 1988 Mr Stockwell was keen to put the theory he had learnt during the winter into practice. A retired fire brigade officer, now aged 57, he slipped away to the club whenever he could and, after a few weeks, practice and theory began to come together. He entered the National Garden Croquet Classic and won the area final that year.

Mr Stockwell once had a golf handicap of ten, and had played regularly for more than 25 years. "With golf," he says, "you smash it up the middle and then putt. You spend your life trying to get it right." For a man who loves crosswords, croquet has a lot to offer: "It takes in everything — physical ability, my brain is ticking over and I'm out in the fresh air. In the fire brigade I played every sport available, but I'm captivated by croquet."

His enthusiasm proved infectious in the club. By the summer of 1989, "we'd got the bit between our teeth and entered the south-eastern league [the Croquet Federation runs league games throughout Britain]. We won the

south-eastern team event and two regional championships." Mr Stockwell got through to the all-England final at Colchester, Essex. This year he hopes to win, although with a croquet handicap of nine and his qualification as a grade one croquet coach he spends most weekends teaching and initiating others into the game.

No one knows where croquet originated. It arrived in England from Ireland in about 1850 and reached its zenith in the 1870s. At first it was a game for women, but young men soon discovered that the best way to separate a girl from her chaperone was to roquet her ball into the shrubbery and then gallantly offer to help her find it. Gradually, lawn tennis, which needs only half the space, lured the young and active away, leaving the elderly playing croquet.

The upturn in the fortunes of the game came in 1985, when a story in a national newspaper gave the address of the Croquet Association. Within a week, 1,500 new members had joined.

More than 200 schools play regularly. Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Blackburn, Lancashire, started five years ago and has already produced five players for national teams — Chris Clarke, Russell Coltham and the three Saurin brothers.

Sponsorship is slowly coming into the game. The Royal Bank of Scotland aims for schoolboy competitions, and this month, the Alton lawn mower company backed the British open championships at Hurlingham, which finish tomorrow, and Bombay Sapphire Gin the Solomon

trophy, to be played in September at Roehampton.

However, M&S et Chandon has withdrawn its croquet sponsorship. As the company's promotions director, Nancy Jarrett, arrived for a competition it began to rain and to her horror "they doctored their sailing gear and lay down in the puddles to get the shot right". It was all very sporting but not quite the champagne image.

Television coverage has been tried but the 25yd by 29yd court is too big, close-up shots cut out of context become meaningless, and an overall view loses the balls. The Croquet Association is considering producing new rules for a half-sized game for television.

This may well suit Mr Stockwell and his members, whose short lawns measure only 24yd by 16yd, and put beginners at a disadvantage when playing a match on a full-sized lawn. He hopes to find a redundant football pitch which could be converted into full-sized lawns.

Croquet is played by equal numbers of men and women, although Mr Stockwell acknowledges that women's domestic commitments often put them at a disadvantage. When companies play at Vine Road he is amused to see young men who have played at college, sometimes explaining to older members of the board that the rules no longer permit them to put a foot on the ball.

With the Vine Road team, Mr Stockwell will play a demonstration match between 2pm and 5pm on Saturday July 28 at the Orleans's Gallery in Twickenham. There will be a chance for spectators to play afterwards.

GERALDINE RANSON

More information from Brian Macmillan, administration secretary, the Croquet Association, Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6.  
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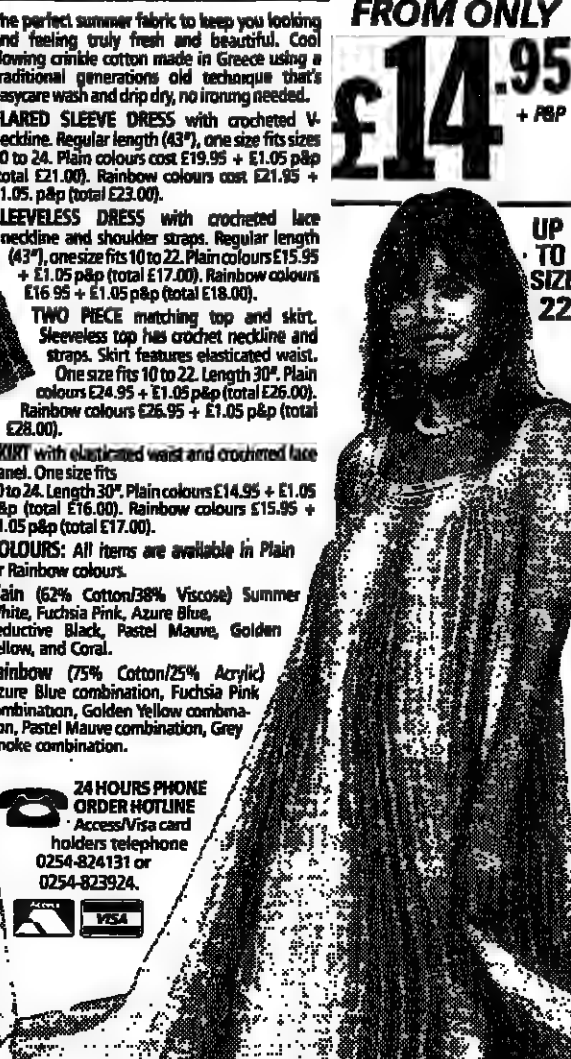
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## Help: Candy Bowman, home help

Many hands, lighter work

CANDY Bowman dreamt of someone who would take the drudgery out of life. "It was so difficult to keep a home going, clothes clean, do errands and wait in for workmen without dropping either an aspect of your job or social life," she says. So in 1986 she started Home Matters, a business that would do for others what she longed to have done for herself.

Ms Bowman, aged 31, employs 53 regular staff including cleaners,

plumbers, and electricians. The agency even has an interior decorator on call, and can provide temporary childcare. It also offers a variety of other services — from queuing for your passport to buying your husband's birthday present, walking the dog, watering the plants and dealing with the drycleaning. But by far the most popular are those which involve dealing with removal men, builders and decorators. "We only use

only people we can trust," Ms Bowman says, "and they are always referred by someone we know."

So far her team has converted bedrooms, re-decorated bedrooms and dealt with flooded basements, including working out the insurance claim and having a new carpet fitted.

The agency charges for the services of the professionals and adds a service charge of about £10 an hour. "It may only take an hour of our time — or it may take more," Ms Bowman says, "but we will always try to keep our time to a minimum."

You have to be a subscriber before you can call on the services of Home Matters. Subscriptions can be taken out for three months at £40, six months at £80 or 12 months at £120.

If you call them for what they term "cloning" — doubling for you while waiting in for a delivery or for a repairman to call — they will advise you to get your money's worth by asking them to clean out the fridge or do the washing at the same time.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Home Matters, 071-359 7339.



Home help: Candy Bowman (left) and some of her team of workers

## Events in town

### THIS WEEKEND

● Annual London international festival of street entertainers: Non-stop entertainment with acrobats, clowns, comedians, dancers, jugglers and unicyclists, mime artists, magicians, and poets, puppeteers and theatre groups. Street entertainer of the year awards tomorrow in the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, 7pm.

West Soho, Carnaby and other pedestrian streets, London W1. Today, tomorrow 11am to late afternoon. Free. Tickets for awards

also free but bookable in advance on 071-734 1166.

● Horses and crafts in Huddersfield: Kirklees Horse Show at Greenhead Park, tomorrow from 9am and a country craft day at Oakwell visitor centre with demonstrations of traditional crafts from 1pm. Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

● Triple challenge and jazz festival: Walk, run or cycle for the Cancer Research Campaign, sponsored by Jazz FM. For the fit, a 15-mile walk starting 11am, or an easier five-mile ramble devised by City Sights leaving at regular intervals from 1pm. Competitive

10km run round the perimeter of Battersea Park from 10.30am, family fun run 3pm. The 26km bike ride leaves at noon. Live jazz. Also crafts, funfair and ethnic food stalls.

Battersea Park. Tomorrow. Registration in the park. Further information (081-746 0053 or 0836 769868).

NEXT WEEK

● Plymouth navy days: Ship and naval base open to the public. HMS Naval Base, Plymouth, Devon (0752 355914). Fri-Sun 9.30am-6pm. Adult £3, child £1.

JUDY FROSHAUGH



## A dirty war out on the streets

As the dog population rises, how are we coping with the mess they leave behind?

THE scene was the tiny parish hall of a pretty village in the heart of rural Gloucestershire. A parish meeting was about to begin and, anticipating the usual interest in parish matters, the clerk had set out half a dozen chairs.

When about 50 villagers turned up and engaged in behaviour more common on football terraces, only one person present was prepared. The guest speaker, Sue Bell, the senior dog warden at nearby Tewkesbury, appreciates the high passions aroused by the main subject on the agenda, dog fouling.

Even normally placid citizens are driven to extremes over the subject, it seems. "Temper gets excessively frayed," says Mrs Bell, who is chairman of the National Dog Wardens' Association. "I have chaired three very large meetings where people have had to be physically restrained. There are never neutral people at dog talks. You get the anti-dog lobby and the good dog owners who are violently opposed to restrictions because they look after their dogs."

But casual dog owners who allow their dogs to foul all over the place don't turn up.

So great is public outrage that a growing number of local authorities are being forced to take action. The result is a new breed of dog warden, whose duties include preventing public areas disappearing beneath piles of dog excrement. With an estimated 7,300,000 dogs in the country, this is clearly not a matter to be taken lightly.

"It is a big problem," says Mrs Bell, aged 42, who estimates that 50 per cent of her work is concerned with dog fouling. "The dog population is on the increase and the areas where they can be exercised are becoming fewer. At the same time, more estates are being constructed with green areas which end up being used as dog toilets." Dog excrement may contain eggs of the toxocara canis worm which, when ingested by humans, can result in ailments ranging from general malaise to lung infections or blindness.

Existing by-laws make it an offence to allow dogs to foul most footpaths but it is up to local authorities to enforce the legislation. Under the proposed Environmental Protection Bill, due to come into effect later this year, they will be given statutory responsibility to keep their public areas clean of litter — including dog mess.

About half of Britain's 421 local authorities already employ dog wardens, all with varying powers, pay and conditions. One of the most progressive is Westminster City Council which this week successfully prosecuted a dog owner under a recently introduced Removal of Canine Faeces by-law, which demands that owners clear up after their dogs.

In his defence the accused dog-owner, Souter Harris, a television

advertising producer, claimed that his bull-terrier was suffering from a stomach upset and that the pooper scooper proffered by the council's "multi-purpose inspector" who witnessed the event was therefore unsuitable. Counsel for the council responded by producing a snapshot of the evidence, showing it to be a healthy and solid example of its kind. Mr Harris was fined £20, a derisory sum according to Donna Clarke, policy assistant to the chairman of Westminster's environment committee. The maximum fine for the offence is £100.

Westminster's inspectors are responsible for enforcing legislation on the council's 220 miles of trading, including illegal street trading and the litter and dog fouling laws. There are 60 inspectors, 10 of them in the Zip team (Zone Improvement Patrol). They carry out "blitzes" on specific areas such as St John's Wood, where dog fouling is a particular problem. A recent stakeout by inspectors in Alma Square resulted in three dog owners being accosted and offered pooper scoopers. All of whom took them and cleaned up the dog mess. Since the by-law was introduced in February 1989, 1,000 dog owners have been approached by the Zip team and all, apart from Mr Harris, obediently cleaned up the excrement or kicked it into the gutter, which is allowed.

As well as selling disposable cardboard pooper scoopers (ten for £1), advising owners not to kiss their dogs and running a dog owners' club, Westminster also assures its dog owners that "almost any dog (adult or puppy) can be trained to use the gutter".

The city of Bradford, which regards itself as being at the forefront of the campaign to clean up the problem, has had dog wardens since 1978 and currently has a team of five to sort out the problems of the 50,000 dogs in the area. The senior warden, Terry Singh, aged 37, believes that the council's success in promoting public awareness can be measured by the fact that they now get more than 5,600 complaints a year compared with 775 in 1978. The council has just bought 2,000 biodegradable plastic pooper scoopers complete with "hygienic" gloves to be handed out to the public.

While some parks already provide special areas of sand to be used as dog lavatories, Wibsey Park in Bradford has just completed a 12-month pilot scheme to encourage dog owners to scoop up their dogs' dirt and put it in the 15 bins provided. The result has been a 90 per cent improvement.

Barrie Tinker, Bradford's senior manager of outdoor amenities, estimates that the scheme has reduced dog fouling in the park by about 90 per cent.

SALLY BROMPTON

## Sir John would have been proud



Pomp and circumstance: the exchange as it was in the affluent 1920s

### Changing face

By the early 1980s, Leeds Corn Exchange, once admired by Sir John Betjeman, and a place of pilgrimage for students of architecture from around the globe, was nearing the terminal stages of decay. The Grade I listed building had had to suffer the indignity of having snow swept from its once-bustling trading floor, and a nightclub had been installed in its basement. The proud commercial hub of the city had become an embarrassment. Like much of the third largest city in England it survived intact the assaults of the Luftwaffe, only to be forsaken by postwar planners and allowed to run into genteel decline in the Sixties. Leeds' claim to be "the motorway city of the Seventies" seemed but the hollow boast of an over-enthusiastic public relations initiative.

All this is now firmly in the past. In the Eighties Leeds emerged with one of the highest growth rates in the country. "We weathered the recession and are now on the up, but what we have lacked are the shops and entertainment to match our prosperity," said a spokesman for Leeds' Labour-controlled city council. Four years ago the potential for the vast amphitheatre of a building at the bottom of Duncan Street was recognised by David Houghton, a chartered surveyor by training who admits to getting "a real thrill" out of seeing neglected buildings brought back to life. Speciality Shops, the company of which he is chairman, runs five shopping centres in locations as far apart as Edinburgh and Maidstone, the majority based around old buildings.

Mr Taylor's first encounter with the residents of the Corn Exchange occupants was not encouraging. He was refused entry to the nightclub on the grounds that he was over-dressed. The city fathers were more welcoming and Speciality Shops now has a 125-year lease from the council on what it hopes will become the focal point of a revitalised city centre. "You can create a satisfactory shopping centre in a new building, but it is more difficult to create a shopping and entertainment centre, which is what we had in mind for the Corn Exchange. With an established building there is a greater degree of acceptance," he maintains.

Transforming the Corn Exchange has meant overcoming a unique set of problems. The building was designed by local architect Cuthbert Brodrick and opened in 1862. The central hall is 76ft high and 170ft long. The elliptical dome with which it is crowned was designed to allow light, as Sir John Betjeman first pointed out, to enter both from

above and from the north, so that it was diffused, and enabled the corn to be examined without shadows. English Heritage took an interest in every stage of the £4 million renovation.

Protracted negotiations were necessary before London architects William Alsop and John Lyall were permitted to remove a section of the trading floor to open up the basement, and to introduce two new staircases leading to the building's internal balcony which had once housed merchants' offices.

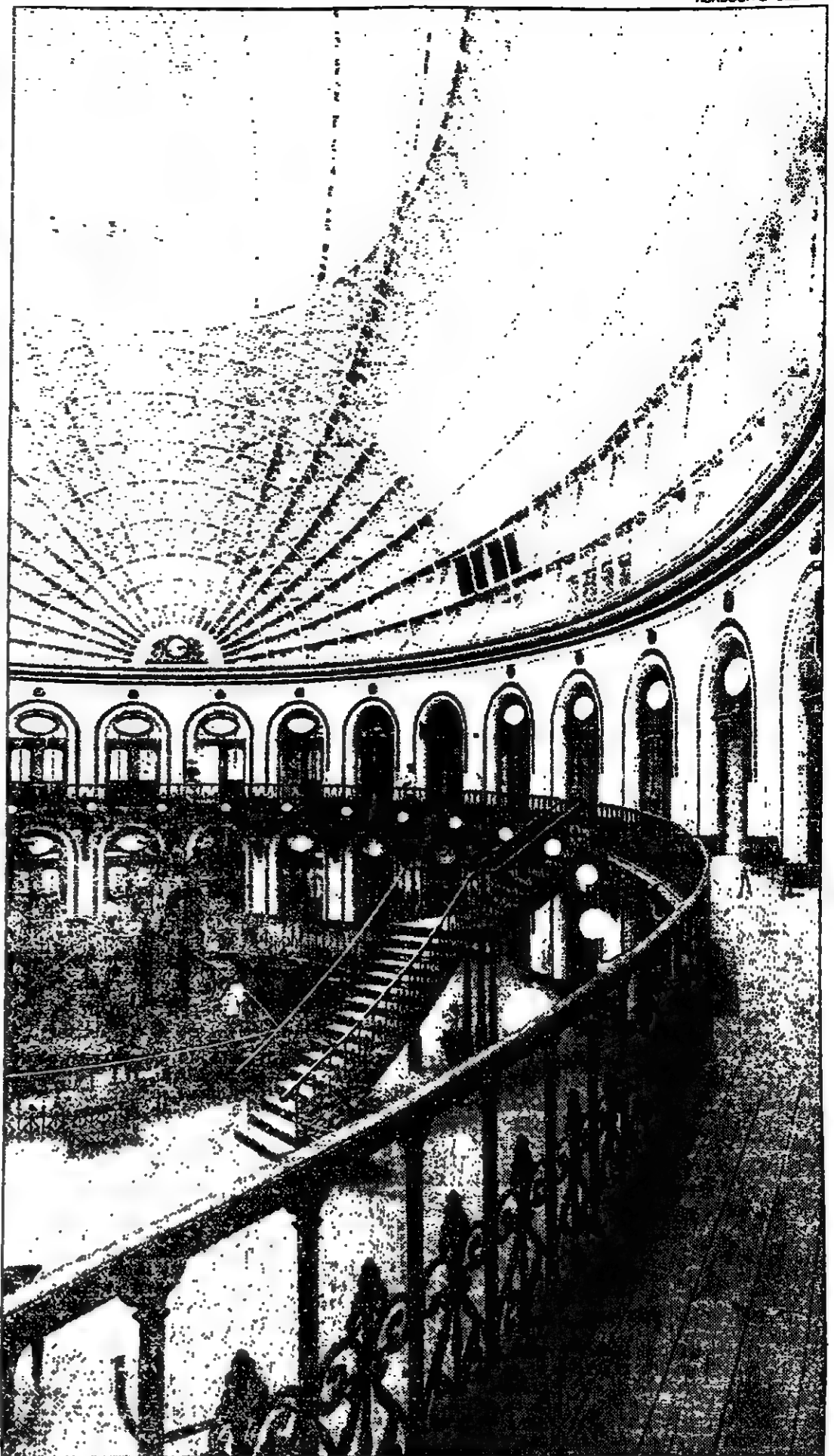
Then there were the corn traders themselves. Their right to hold a market every Tuesday is enshrined in complex bye-laws (the Corn Exchange must be the only shopping centre in Britain where, technically at least, shoppers are not permitted to loiter). Even now a section of the hall is cleared once a week so that corn trading can take place.

The overall intention of the Speciality Shops scheme, of which the Corn Exchange is stage one, is to shift the whole emphasis of the city further south. Eventually a new footbridge will be built across the nearby River Aire and a five acre site, including the 18th century White Cloth Hall, will be renovated to include not only shops, but offices and studios.

With low rents — one-third the cost per square foot of the high street stores 50 yards away — the development is designed to attract small, but growing, businesses. Following talks with a local art college, a number of units have already been allocated to young designers and a craftsman co-operative is to take up residence.

Although the official opening is not until October some three quarters of the 35 units have already been let. A key element of Mr Houghton's strategy is to establish eating places early, in order to draw in shoppers. With potted palms and ample foliage it is hoped that the effect will be that of a 19th century conservatory.

ROBERT DUNKLEY

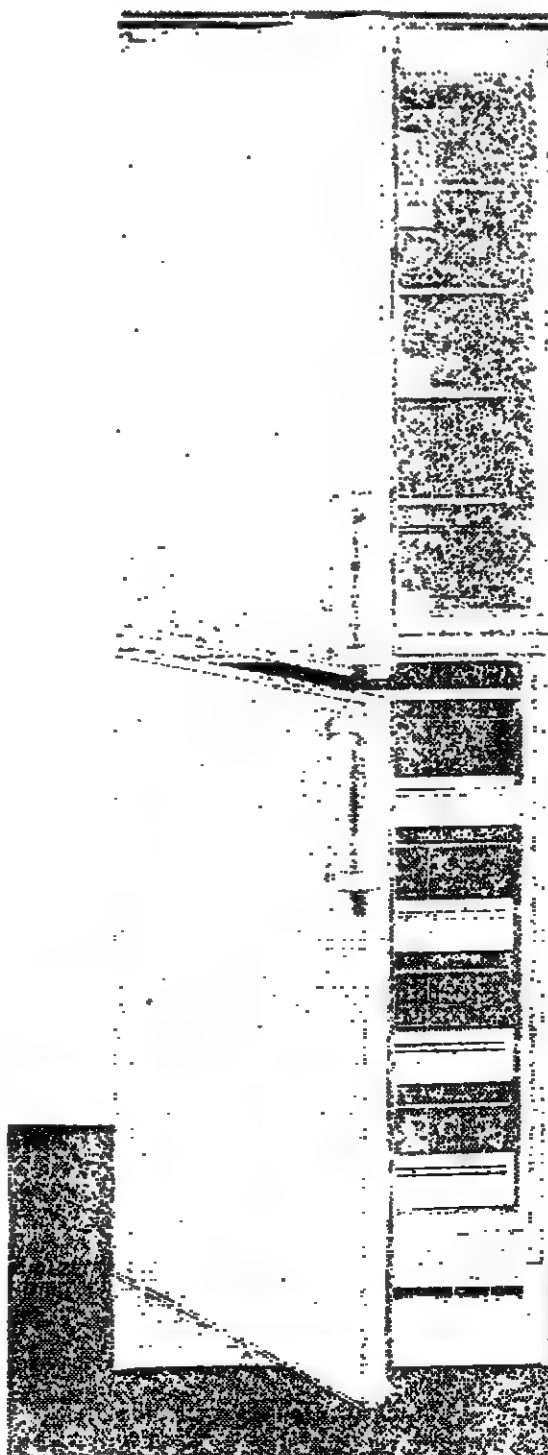


Reborn from the ashes: after its £4 million restoration, the Leeds Corn Exchange is ready for business

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YOU'LL NEVER REGRET BUYING HITACHI

## WEEKENDING

JULIE WELCH



We have been on first name terms from the start. "Hi, I'm Archie; this is my wife Jane, and that's our baby Matilda." Jane is brandishing the pink bundle that is the reason they have been on our doorstep for the past four weekends. They need a bigger house and, God willing, ours is the bigger house they need.

We have been trying to move for more than two years. No lazy summer Sundays flaked out in the garden for us. We spend our weekends scrubbing and wiping and tidying and concealing so people can whisk around our house in ten minutes flat and decide it is not what they want. In our household they are known as Wofers, because they are a Waste Of Effing Time.

When we began, estate agencies thrived with energy and optimism. Now it must be like working in an Albanian department store, only not so devil-may-care. Those bullish young negotiators who roared up in bright red Porsches are now twitchy old men wearing last year's Next. The two who came to value our place shuffled around gloomily. They would have hit the right note if there had been a massacre in the family, but as it was we could have done with a bit more passion. "Better make a list of what's on the inside," said one to the other, "because sure as eggs we won't sell it on the outside."

I have been walking around the outside of our house ever since, wondering what he meant. Is there something I missed? A six-lane motorway? Killer sharks? However, it is not all doom and despondency. We are getting to know Archie and Jane quite well. They are a sweet, warm, hard-working couple with a beautiful baby, which is just as well because no weekend goes by without them taking one more look at our Hand-Crafted Kitchen or Extremely Peaceful Walled Garden. Impulse buyers they are not. On their third visit, they brought Archie's mother. Visit four, and it was time to meet Jane's father.

"You'd think they were marrying into our family, not buying our flipping house," I observed to a friend. She was unimpressed. "Only four visits?" she said derisively. "Can't be very interested. We looked round our house ten times before we decided we couldn't live without it." Ten times? Which relation will Archie and Jane be bringing to meet us by then — the long-lost great-uncle believed to have gone down with the Titanic? The trouble is, buyers are no longer the suckers they were. When I think of the power I had when I was selling my little des res in south London six years ago: one couple was so desperate they dropped a note through the door. "We can't afford your asking price but we love your house and we would really look after it." Ho, you would, would you? Listen, I don't much care if people use the Original Victorian Shutters for firewood and hold satanic ceremonies in the living-room, as long as the money is right.

These days buyers are cynics. Forget all those little stratagems you're told to get up to such as filling the house with the smell of freshly ground coffee or newly baked bread. "Oh, you read that article too, did you?" they say, homing in on the damp patch under the front window as if there were a big arrow over it saying: "Knock £10,000 off the asking price here."

If only our house did smell of

freshly ground coffee. I do not know how she knows when something is afoot, but the moment potential buyers walk in the door, our cat saunters to the litter tray and fills the entire ground floor with the most appalling pong. At one stage it was even more hazardous than that.

By far the worst buyers are the ones paying cash. They have the humility of armoured tanks. A woman of 25 pranced into my house announcing that Daddy was giving her the money. She sent in a surveyor whose face set in a sneer as he crossed the threshold. "I say, did you know you had serious subsidence?" "I say, did you know you had a tree growing in your roof?" What I should have replied was: "I say, did you know I suffer from paranoid delusions that I'm being persecuted by chartered surveyors and this is the sub-machinegun I keep in my desk?" She backed out because I would not move out in two weeks.

I wonder if potential buyers actually read the estate agents' details. The description of our place seems fairly straightforward: terraced house on four floors. One would think "four floors" would be the giveaway. Not likely to be a bungalow is it? But no, a ring on the doorknob and there they stand with carriage frames, plaster-encased legs, walking frames. Afterwards the estate agent phones. "They loved the house, but there were too many stairs." What do these people think, that we abscond down the walls to breakfast?

The estate agent's blurb waxed eloquent about our Four Good-Sized Bedrooms, but does not say anything important, such as how we live in the last place in London where the milkman knows everyone by name, and how one's friends are so close that during a tearful phone call the other person just runs across the road to offer gin and sympathy. And it is the house I was married from and which I came back to from the hospital with my day-old babies. I don't think I can bear to leave it. How will I tell Archie and Jane?



## Breeding

## A royal outcast spotted

THE Prince of Wales banished a spotted pony from his polo stable because it did not match his other, solid-colour ponies. The mare, an Appaloosa called Petruskas, was sold but, with the help of her new owner, Desmie de Rivaz, she was to found a new dynasty before she died last year after spending a happy retirement with Paul and Linda McCartney.

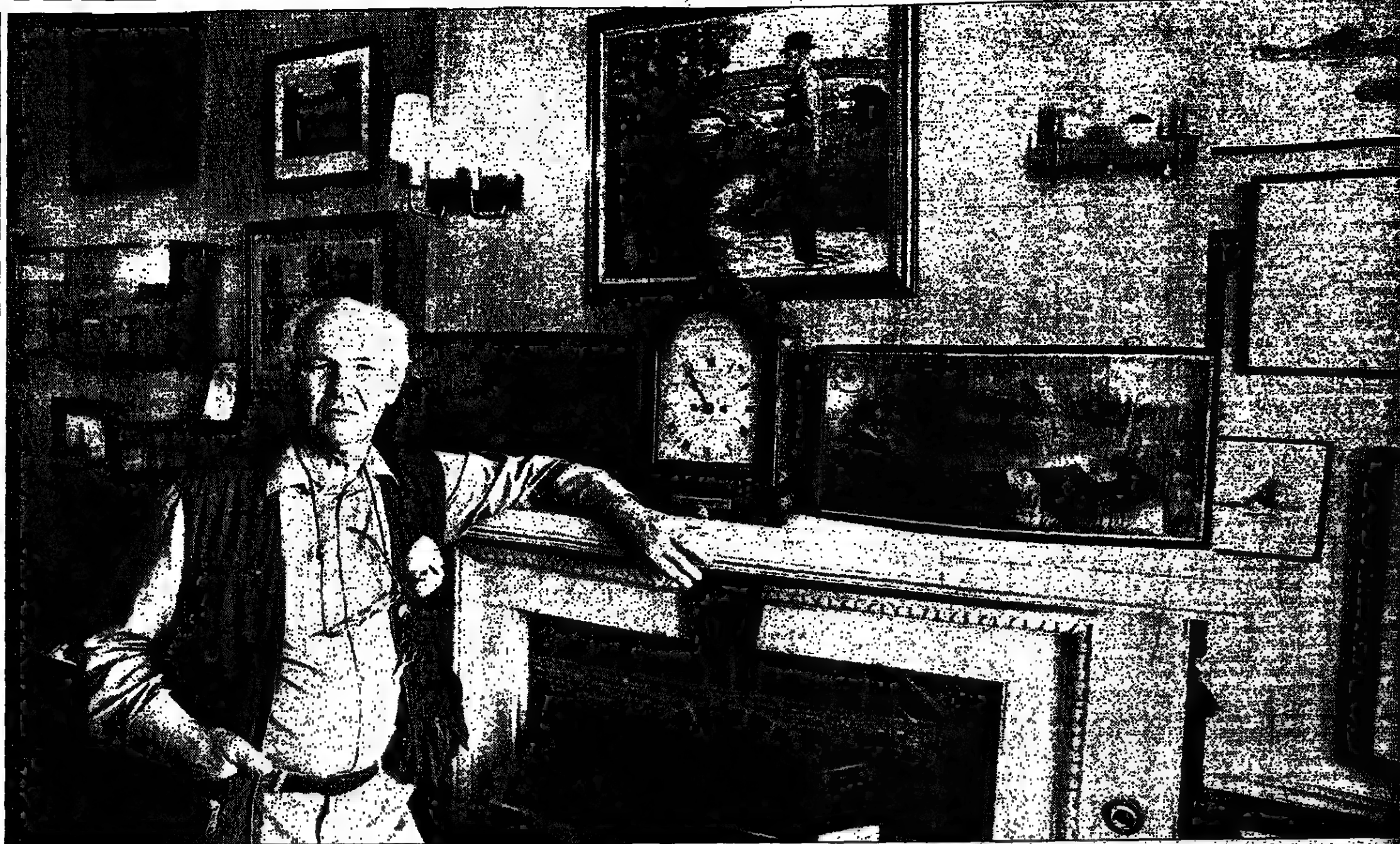
Mrs de Rivaz bought Petruskas in 1973 for her sons who played polo at Cirencester Park, in Gloucestershire, and people said she ought to breed from her. "There weren't many stallions of the breed, but Dorian Williams's father had a Canadian Appaloosa, called Sunrise Speckled Hawk, and that really started it all," says Mrs de Rivaz.

Petruskas was the last mare to be served by Sunrise, who died in a road accident, and Klaus, who had been reserve champion at the Utrecht Stallion Show and was destined to be national champion in this country for 11 years, was imported from The Netherlands to serve Petruskas, who had ten foals by him.

The de Rivaz stud came into being near Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, as did the British Appaloosa Society.

The breed is on show today and tomorrow at the first two-day Appaloosa event at the British Horse Society centre at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

The Appaloosa is a hardy breed requiring no special treatment. "It



Casting memories in the club room: Mick Lunn, the head keeper to the famous Houghton fishing club in Hampshire for 27 years, says he has had an enviable life, but fears for the future of his beloved River Test.

## Perfectly matched with the Test

Like his grandfather before him, keeper Mick Lunn has spent his days by the water. He tells Stewart Tendler about his life's work

For 50 years Mick Lunn has walked the banks of Britain's premier chalk-stream, coddling fish and fisherman alike as keeper for the Houghton Club. Mr Lunn and his members enjoy that particularly English fishing idyll — a crystal clear stream, a carefully cast fly sitting dry on the gently shifting surface, and the rising nose of a hungry, inquisitive trout.

His world has always been the flows and glides of the River Test as it weaves through the Hampshire meadows. He has been the club's head keeper for 27 years, following a family tradition begun by his grandfather in the 1890s and described in an autobiography to be published later this month.

Next year, as winter turns to spring at the beginning of his 65th year, he will retire, bringing to an end a fishing dynasty. The Lunn story began in 1886, when grandfather Lunn, a Londoner and originally a brickmaker, joined the Houghton Club as a keeper. Formed in 1822 by 12 members, and based at the Grosvenor Hotel in Stockbridge, near Andover, the club was the sanctuary of the greatest of Victorian "fishing gents".

Houghton prided itself on good fellowship, developing a collection of records, paintings, notes and writings which continues.

The artist Sir Edward Landseer and J.M.W. Turner were members, contributing paintings or

sketches to the clubroom above the hotel. In those days the anglers were known as "blowers", relying on the wind to help them cast live insects impaled on hooks on fine lines. No wind meant seeking solace in the sketch book.

By the turn of the century, members had been converted into "whippers" and used the fore-runners of modern fly rods to flick imitation flies on to the river. Grandfather Lunn, the head keeper for 44 years, was an expert entomologist and created more than 40 patterns for tying flies, bearing such names as Lunn's Particular and the Houghton Ruby, which are still widely used.

"In those days fishing was really for the gents," Mr Lunn says. "On Sunday, after church, my father might let me fish for minnows in a mill pond, but what I caught would be used as bait for pike."

After his first real catch, a one-year-old grayling, there was little doubt what his career would be. He cast his first fly line at the age of eight and began tying flies for the members two years later.

The river beyond the boundaries of the club's 15 miles was then in the hands of estates on which the squire and his guests fished at the peak of the season. But by the time Mr Lunn came into his inheritance, the river was in the hands of syndicates, which fished through the season.

The club membership increased, but it has remained small

and intimate: members still meet each morning round an oak table to allocate the day's beats, beneath the gaze of one of the founders, sketched in his 100th year. "People talk about the club being exclusive, but there are 24 people to fish," Mr Lunn says. "The

Lunn says is far cheaper than might be expected for fishing on a river where some owners charge more than £100 a day. The club bought the Grosvenor Hotel more than 60 years ago to protect its clubroom, and it also runs a profitable fish farm serving many other fisheries.

Should an invitation to join the club be extended? It may be some time before it is fulfilled. Two or three years ago the members included a brace of anglers and their children in their nineties. Today's members include several in their eighties. Members can be remarkable

for their eccentricity as much as their longevity. A celebrated surgeon was once prompted to try fishing from the wheel of his Bentley car to emulate the Victorian anglers who cast on horseback. Mr Lunn records that the fish prudently fled at the sound of



Young Mick Lunn (left) and friend

the car on the bank. Other members are more successful. Mr Lunn recalls one man who recently caught a 7lb trout. "He carried it in his arms like a baby and let everyone see it."

His job is to make sure that the river provides its annual bag of 1,600 to 1,800 trout, using a mix of natural fish and fresh stocks each spring, and to guide the anglers to their quarry. He is a fisherman's confidant, scout, fly selector and master of the hunt.

The perfection of his task is to see a fly cast accurately under the nose of a responsive trout. Despite his grandfather's fly-tying expertise, he believes it is the fisherman rather than the fly that gets the fish. "It's presentation. The way the fly goes over."

Mr Lunn would not attribute to trout the cunning and intelligence that mythology has given them. But there are "big old chaps" who appear at the peak of the season and then disappear again. These are also the fish who "pass their A-levels" — anglers' friends, constantly rising to tempt the angler and keep him busy.

How much longer they will continue to rise is the subject of speculation. The omelets are not good. Fish farms are adding waste and disease to the water, towns are pumping out sewage and farmers adding fertilisers from their land. The river relies on its vegetation

for filtering, and that is now in danger. The winters have become unusually mild and dry. The rain is not steady but too sudden and too little to replenish the springs on which the Test relies.

"When my father retired in 1962 he said 'you will have a drought one of these days, boy'. The last he had was 1921," Mr Lunn says. "Along came 1976, my first. Having got over that, began me, along came 1989. There is a weather change. When I was a boy if we did not have snow or a freeze in winter there was something wrong."

Staring at a river with little of its bottom which normally covers its bottom and none of its traditional glass-clear clarity, Mr Lunn says: "You won't hear the river cry out. You've been at it so long you're loyal to it. When fishermen complain, but then you sit at home and wonder if something is going wrong."

This year the Test is again suffering from a mild winter and little rain. The river depth is lower and the flow is slower.

Now it will follow to protect the Lunn's achievements, but the family connection may not be lost. "My grandson is a good little fisherman. He says 'let's go fishing' and I say 'worm or fly' and he says 'oh, fly, Grandpa'."

● A portrait of Lunn, by Mick Lunn with Eric Graham-Ranger, to be published by Unwin Hyman on July 26, £14.99.



Appaloosa: markedly different

is the perfect all-round horse," Mrs de Rivaz says. "It will do dressage, hunting, eventing and showjumping. And it has a wonderful temperament." She sold one horse last year for £4,000.

The Persians claimed the ancestor of all spotted horses was Rukhsh, a warhorse of 400BC. The breed was taken to America by Spanish adventurers. Charles II had an Appaloosa, with red on his rump, named Bloody Buttocks.

Colour is important. Eight basic coat patterns include spotted blanket, white blanket, marble, leopard, few spot leopard, snowflake and frosted hip. A white sclera to the eye is an essential, giving an alert expression.

SANDY BISP

● British Appaloosa Society, c/o 2 Frederick Street, Rugby. British Horse Society, 0203 696697.

## LEE VALLEY WATER COMPANY SECTION 16, WATER ACT 1945 PROHIBITION OF USE OF HOSEPIPES

THE LEE VALLEY WATER COMPANY being of the opinion that a serious deficiency of water available for distribution by it exists GIVES NOTICE that with effect from Saturday, 21st July 1990, the use of a hosepipe or similar apparatus for either: watering private gardens or washing private motor cars, caravans or trailers

IS PROHIBITED in the following areas:-

- The areas within the London Boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey supplied by Lee Valley Water Company;
- the parishes of Blackmore, Doddinghurst, Kelvedon Hatch, Navestock and Standon Massey, in the County of Essex;
- Letchworth and Baldock and the parishes of Ashwell, Bygrave, Caldecote, Clothall, Hinxworth, Newnham, Radwell and Weston in the County of Hertfordshire.
- The area administered by Harlow District Council and those parts of the area administered by Epping Forest District Council that are supplied by Lee Valley Water Company, until further notice.

Any person found contravening this prohibition will be liable on conviction in a Magistrates Court to a fine not exceeding £400.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD  
P.W. DARBY  
COMPANY SECRETARY

## Country events

## THIS WEEKEND

● Singleton show for rare breeds: Largest animal show of its kind in southern England. More than 500 entries including Sussex cattle, Jacob sheep, pigs and goats. Also country crafts and sheep shearing demonstrations. Grand parade 4pm. Refreshments. *Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex (0243 63348). Tomorrow 11am-5pm. Adult £3, child £1.50. Car park free.*

● Upper Slaughter church fête: Tours throughout the afternoon, also indoor swimming, target shooting, pony rides, trick cycling, car obstacle course, dog show, stalls, brass band. Refreshments. *Eyford House, Eyford, near Upper Slaughter, Gloucestershire. Today from 1pm.*

● Rally of the giants: Members of the Pre-50 American Auto Club with their cars, including Lincoln, Cadillac, Oldsmobiles, Buicks, Packards, Chryslers, Studebakers and Chevrollets. House, gardens, park and adventure playground all open. *Knebworth House, Knebworth, Hertfordshire (0438 812661). Tomorrow 11am-5.30pm. Admission to rally and all facilities adult £3.50, child £3.*

● Download guided walk: Four-mile walk on little-used paths east of East Dean, via Pea Down. Walk lasts approximately three hours. *Eastbourne, Junction Priory Heights and Burnside Down roads (map reference 584003). Tomorrow from 2pm. Tickets - adult £1, child 50p - must be booked from the TTC (0323 411400) or the Beachy Head Countryside Centre (0323 411145).*

● Federation of Essex Women's Institutes county show: Family day held in the restored Temple Barns with demonstrations, an exhibition of members' work, stalls, refreshments and bar. *Temple Barns, between Braintree and Witham on the B1018, Essex. Today 10am-5pm. Admission £1.50.*

● Buxton International Festival: Three-week festival begins today. Programme includes opera, concerts and recitals, ballet, talks, readings, jazz and drama. Book Fair today and tomorrow in the Octagon. Torchlit procession round the town from 10pm. *Buxton, Derbyshire. Today until August 11. Programme, further information and booking at the Opera House (0298 92190).*

● Whitstable oyster festival: "Landing the oyster" ceremony at the Horsebridge 12.30pm today, with procession, Morris men and live music. Concert tonight - Polyphonia with A String of Pearls. Mock Viking battle planned for tomorrow on Tankerton Slopes. *Whitstable, Kent. Today until July 29. Further information Arthur Pearce (0227 792164).*

● Swan dipping: Ancient annual marking and counting of the Thames swans owned by the Queen, the Vintners Company and the Dyers Company. *River Thames between Sunbury-on-Thames and Whitchurch. Mon-Fri. Further details and viewing information (071-236 1863).*

● New Forest and Hampshire county show: Livestock, arena events, showjumping, dog show. Exhibitions, displays and trade stands. *New Park, Brockenhurst, Hampshire. Tue-Thurs 8.30am-6pm. Adult £6, child £3.*

● Great Western air days: Flying displays, military shows, arena events, rides, marching bands, side stalls and a craft market. Proceeds to charity. *Beach Lanes, Beach Road, Weston-super-Mare, Avon. Wed, Thurs 9am-6pm, adult £2, child £1, under fives free.*

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## How did the dinosaur?

THE day had been long and the meal very good, so neither of us was at his best. "Just a theory, isn't it?" Engel was saying between sips. "The theory of evolution. It's not a fact, is it?"

I brought in: play one of the strongest arguments it is possible to use. "That's exactly what Ronald Reagan thinks." It is true. He once told an evangelical group in Dallas: "Well, it's a theory. It is a scientific theory only, and it has in recent years been challenged in the world of science — that is, not believed in the scientific community to be as infallible as it once was."

Engel did not finish. It is Barnes's First Law of Debate that no one is convinced by reason over a second sump. It is also just possible that the presentation of my arguments was marred by the stresses of the day.

Perhaps I should have brought in dinosaurs. I should have told him that dinosaurs survive today and are flying all around us: birds are, in fact, dinosaurs, or at least their ancestors. But I doubt if Engel would have swallowed it in any case, there is still plenty of scientific debate about the accuracy of that one. But the fact remains that I am right and Engel is wrong. (This is Barnes's Second Law of Debate.)

But evolution itself is a fact. The theory of natural selection explains how evolution works. Darwin proposed; the mechanics of evolution have been discussed and researched endlessly ever since. But the fact of evolution is not in doubt, nor is it discredited by debate. Quite the reverse.

By the same token, as has been pointed out, Newton's theory of gravity gave way to Einstein's theory... but gravity itself never ceased to be a fact. Not even Mr Reagan expected apples to start falling upwards.

That evolution happens cannot be doubted. One of the finest proofs in existence is a British moth, and we have industrial

## Feather report

pollution to thank for it. The beast in question is the peppered moth, so called because it used to be speckled.

The speckles were for camouflage. But in industrial areas peppered moths are now predominantly black. Circumstances have changed. Air pollution has killed the lichen on the tree trunks and soot has made the tree trunks black. A speckled moth on a black tree trunk shows up like red wine on a white tablecloth.

Where there are black tree trunks, the peppered moths are now likely to be black. The change has come because being black increases the chances of surviving and breeding. This is evolution in action.

Engel was as unimpressed by the moths as he was by Mr Reagan. I refrained from mentioning the other two simple proofs of evolution: I doubt if I could have remembered them. It was after all, almost two o'clock. This column represents a kind of extended piece of *esprit de l'école*: what I should have said to Engel had the sump been permitted.

There is the argument for imperfection. It is normally assumed that adaptation is perfection, but the truth is to be found in

imperfection. Let me quote Stephen Jay Gould, the Harvard professor of paleontology and a magnificent writer: "Why should a rat run, a bat fly, a porpoise swim, and I type this essay with structures built of the same bones unless we all inherited them from a common ancestor? An engineer, starting from scratch, could design better limbs in each case."

The final example is a bird. Darwin was aware that his argument for natural selection in *On the Origin of Species* was short of a good, solid back-up in fossils. He needed transitional creatures, "missing links".

The *Origin* was published in 1859. Two years later, the most famous missing link in history was discovered: it "seemed an unparalleled act of cosmic goodwill towards science," one writer said.

The missing link was an archaic, reptile half-way through changing into a bird. It had bones like a reptile, teeth and so on, but feathers like a bird. Archaeopteryx: imperfection of design and perfection of proof. Quite.

Engel, and while you're at it, your friend Serge to bring us more sump.

SIMON BARNES



Missing link: archaopteryx, a reptile which finally evolved into a bird

## Intriguing

SEAN FEENEY is a writer and maker of imagination that he calls *The Planes*. One client he recently wanted to see the sun's rays from the bedroom. Using a telescope, the sun was on one bedside lamp on the other. "Nothing a custom-made lamp couldn't do," Mr Feeny says. "I'm a man who uses a secret device to make a room better with joy."

At the old village of Preston-on-Stour, Mr Feeny is now working a long, what he calls a "mimic" of the sun's rays from the bedroom. Using a telescope, the sun was on one bedside lamp on the other. "Nothing a custom-made lamp couldn't do," Mr Feeny says. "I'm a man who uses a secret device to make a room better with joy."

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## WEEKEND LIVING: OUT OF TOWN

Farmer's Diary: Paul Heiney

## Now showing: thistle down the wind



bark of a dying swine as the steel flashed across his neck. I finished my tea, hurriedly.

I had done my deal and secured my treasure: a horse-drawn swath turner, which I towed home to Suffolk rejoicing. This machine flips heaps of newly mown grass so that it can dry in the sun and become hay. I have long coveted a machine I once saw which did this wonderfully: it had a series of mechanical flippers which kicked the hay high in the sky as the horse walked along, and resembled a robot attempting the Charleston. The machine I had just bought was more dour and Fen-like in its action, but just as effective.

I arrived home to be told by my wife that she had managed to spend 20 minutes lost in the middle of a three-acre field. This is quite an achievement, and so, with some curiosity, I followed her insistent directions. They led to a

patch of land which has had a question mark over it: some of our land is still carrying the crops of the previous owner and I thought he was tending this field, while he believed that I was. The result is that nature seized her opportunity: the weeds have thrived on last year's nitrogen residues, and we have stalks of mayweed and thistles that reach higher than a killed Scotsman would find comfortable.

I stood wondering in this lost world, then came a puff of wind through the jungle. From each of the thousands of thistles drifted a handful of fluffy, innocent-looking thistledown. I froze. A million seeds had just taken to the air, and away with them had drifted our hopes of a weed-free farm next year. Without chemicals, organic farmers have to give each weed personal attention.

Watching the thistledown in

flight, it was as if I had just seen the entire crowd at Wembley Stadium rise, and knew that next spring I would have to shake hands with each of them.

One skirmish with weeds has already been lost. You may remember that the first crop I sowed was clover, which I did while the moon was waxing, on the ancient theory that the growth of the moon encourages the budding of the crop. So it did: a good crop of clover appeared, but so did numerous weeds. We had docks, fat-hen, mayweed, poppies and yet more thistles. Despair. I announced at breakfast that I was off to kill the fat-hen and could not understand why the children's eyes filled with tears. When I explained that the victim was not our clucking, speckled friend, good humour was restored.

I need not have fretted. When I turned to yet another of my musty

textbooks I found that the invasive fat-hen weed gets rave reviews as "an indicator of high soil fertility"; that mayweed's "profusion of leaves makes a valuable contribution to soil fertility if mown", and that when the author got a similarly disastrous clover crop he simply mowed it and let the mowings lie until they rotted and fertilised the soil. Twelve months later, after a little carefully controlled grazing by cattle, he had "a field that was without superior in Britain". It seemed worth a try. If we can have no clover this year, we can at least have hope.

Out came the horse-drawn mower, and one man and his horses went to mow a meadow. The blade clattered through the growth, reminding me uncomfortably of the Fenlander's pig-sticking knife. I began to view the field as an exciting experiment in natural fertility, rather than a beginner's failure.

I now gaze upon my brownish field of dry stalks in certain expectation of the finest sward in all England; even the fine haze of thistledown wafting down the hill cannot depress me. Much.

## On the wings of a dream

WHEN he was a boy, Dr Peter Player, a general practitioner, cherished a secret ambition to own a zoo. At the age of 43, his dreams have crystallised in the form of a bird park which opens at Flimwell, East Sussex, today.

Dr Player teamed up with a neighbour, Bill Stacey, to buy 14 acres of woodland for the project. The men have spent thousands of pounds creating six islands, each with its own waters, and each stocked with ornamental and exotic water fowl from Europe, Asia, Africa, America, Oceania and Australasia.

There are more than 200 birds of 35 species, plus black swans, peacocks and pheasants.

Dr Player, who was one of the first students to take degrees in ecological science at Edinburgh University in 1966, says: "Of course the patients come first. I always wanted to be a family doctor, like my father, but he too had an abiding interest in birds." From the age of 12 until he left for university, Dr Player built up a collection of around 100 ducks of 25 different varieties, which he left in his father's care. Those caretaking duties, extended while his son studied medicine, are acknowledged today with an invitation to Dr Henry Percival Player, now retired, to perform the private opening ceremony.

Dr Player Jr worked for two months in a mission hospital in the highlands of New Guinea and while there he managed to spot some of the rare Salvadori's ducks beside a raging torrent — "one of the high spots of my life", he says.

Among Flimwell's novelty items is the Magellanic Steamer duck, originally from Argentina's coast, which costs around £600 a pair. "It is flightless, large and steams away rather fast," says Dr Player. "All our birds are the product of captive breeding."

Flimwell makes its contribution to conservation by nurturing Cuban whistling ducks, which are close to extinction in the West Indies. Laysan teal, down to one mother and her brood until an American breeder saved the Pacific island variety, are also there and it is hoped some white-winged woodchuck will be on loan from the Wild Fowl Trust. Now that the bird park is a reality, Dr Player will hand it over to be run by a team headed by his sister, Valerie Frearson.

SANDY BISP

● The park is open from 2pm today. There is an exhibition room plus a children's playground, picnic area and cafe. Situated just off the A21 on the A268, admission is £2.50 (adults), £1.75 (children and senior citizens). Inquiries to Flimwell Bird Park, Hawkhurst Road, Flimwell, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN3 7QP (0560 8202).

MY FARMING week started far from home, in the bleak Norfolk Fens: a low-lying, fertile tract of land where the wind always blows chill. It must be a lonely life for a Fenland farmer: impassable drainage ditches make every man an island, and neighbouring farms can be miles apart via the nearest bridge. I have always imagined Fenlanders as being dour and remote.

My host was an amiable sort, however, not at all deranged by his isolated existence in a bungalow built into the breach of an old sea-wall. A few miles to the north were the swirling waters of the Wash, and the constant hum of pumps suggested that we were some feet below sea-level. I avoided mentioning the greenhouse effect.

We had a cup of tea and, just as I was reapproaching myself for thinking Fenlanders any different from the rest of us, he picked up an aged carving knife, held it a couple of inches from my nose until the steel was too close to focus on and, with his eyes wide, said: "This was my father's. He used this to kill pigs. Kill pigs!" Then he pretended to slash his throat, impersonating the

## Taking the plunge on a pool of your own

## Assets

THE greenhouse effect could be the reason for the swing back to outdoor, rather than indoor, pools, says Norman Lingham, of the Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association. "Of the 5,000 to 6,000 pools sold in Britain last year, most were for outdoor use," he says. However, Steve Geekie, of the PG Group, which accounts for about 40 per cent of pools sold, says sales of indoor pools are also booming.

Many home owners are installing DIY pools, a much less expensive option. Penguin Pools, for example, offers a kit from £4,000, plus VAT. A similar pool installed by the company costs from £12,000.

Anyone still at the planning stage might consider a tailor-made indoor pool. As well as being able to use it all year round, heating bills are lower than for an outdoor pool. Most permanent structures need planning permission.

If the budget will not stretch to an indoor pool, consider a covered outdoor pool. The most elegant cover is a conservatory with glass or PVC panels.

Pool Pavilions offers the conservatory-style Palladian with glazed panels (from £25,343, plus VAT for a 10m x 6m building), and the Pallas, which has a double-skinned roof with sliding panels (from £10,567, plus VAT, for a 5.7m x 5m structure). Graceful alternatives are Ardey's conservatory-style structures. The Monaco and the Carlton have functional, clean lines, and the airy Victorian offers a variety of decorative features. Each has a twin-wall polycarbonate roof and toughened glass sides. Prices start from £27,200, £29,700 and £30,600, respectively, plus VAT, for a 20ft 6in x 36ft structure.

An indoor-outdoor option is created by Lanzare's Oxford enclosure, which is telescopic, allowing one or more sections of PVC glazing panels to be rolled back. This arched aluminium structure costs from £13,800, plus VAT, for a 7.5m x 6m building. Another, less expensive possibility is a lightweight, see-through, inflatable dome, which can be pumped up like an air-bed. The

heavy-duty polythene domes made by Covair Structures take two people about an hour-and-a-half to erect. There are five sizes and prices start at £1,196, including VAT, to cover a 40ft x 20ft pool, plus £170 delivery.

Similar domes are made in vinyl by Lanzare. The Deluxe Pool Dome offers at least 6ft headroom over the whole area, while the Low Profile Pool Dome suits smaller gardens. The Cable, with anchor bolts for greater security, is £1,850. Other models start at £1,898, plus VAT, for a 28ft x 16ft model. Delivery and installation charges are extra.

Owners of open-air pools looking for a way to avoid debris in winter might consider Allen Plastics' Eastbag winter cover. This vinyl sheet, secured by the weight of separate water bags, costs from £210, plus VAT and delivery, for a 20ft x 10ft cover.

A filtration unit is essential for keeping the water clean. But it is also wise to buy a surface skimmer to collect leaves, equipment to keep the sides, bottom and surrounds clean, and water-treatment chemicals for disinfecting the water and killing algae.

Shallow nets are useful for gathering surface detritus, and deeper nets for reaching the bottom. Underwater vacuum cleaners take about an hour to clean an average-size pool and need to be used weekly, or more frequently in windy weather.

## NICOLE SWENGLEY

● The Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association runs a telephone enquiry service and publishes leaflets. Spots House, Junction Road, Andover, Hampshire (0264 23345).

● POOLS AND COVERS: Penguin Swimming Pools, Bakers Lane, Galleyswood, Chelmsford, Essex (0277 840711). Pool Pavilion Products, Unit 2, West Ham Lane, Monton Industrial Estate, Worthing Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire (0256 473552). Lanzare, Unit 7, Oakfield Industrial Estate, Eynsham, Oxfordshire (0865 883727). Ardey, 1 Greenforde Way, Cwmbran, Gwent (0633 872134). Covair Structures, Unit 7, Venture Court, Dodsford Bridge Industrial Estate, Hinkley, Leicestershire (0455 619101). Allen Plastics, 1 Edison Road, Churchfields Industrial Estate, Salisbury, Wiltshire (0722 28673).

● CLEANERS: Ameson Pool Sweep, Ray-Vac and Aquanet, Norcal Engineering, 16, 17 & 18 Pelham Court, Pelham Place, Broadfield, Crawley, West Sussex (0293 546126). Polaris, Aquatex UK, Unit 1D, Kennetside, Bone Lane, Newbury, Berkshire (0635 49141). Barracuda Manta and Dolphin, the PG Group, Unit 9, Witan Park, Avenue 2, Station Lane Industrial Estate, Witney, Oxfordshire (0963 778855). Kreepy Krutty, Unipools, 621 Watford Way, London NW7 (081-959 8888).

Originals: Sean Feeney, furniture designer

## Intricacies of plane speaking

SEAN Feeney is a furniture designer and maker of such fertile imagination that he could turn Holst's *The Planets* into a bedroom suite for Patrick Moore. One client he recently accommodated wished to wake each day to see the sun's rays streaming across the bedroom furniture, so, using inlays, the sun was made to rise on one bedside table before bursting across the bedhead and setting on the other table.

"Nothing a customer might ask for surprises me," Mr Feeney says. He is a man who understands the need for a secret drawer in a dressing table — and a decoy drawer baited with second-best jewellery.

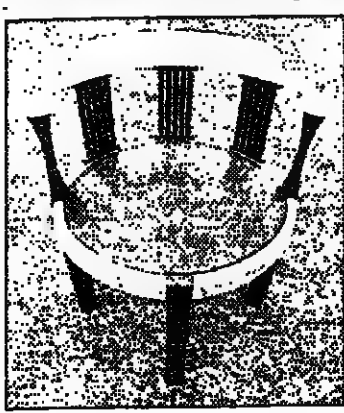
At the old village school house in Preston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, Mr Feeney answers the door wearing a long, white apron. He gives visitors a moment to rock on their heels, dazed by sudden smells of sweet timber.

What is he making now? A photograph frame. But no ordinary frame: large, and designed to look like a Georgian house, it might not look out of place in the National Gallery. The frame's kaleidoscope of marquetry will pick out building features, keystones and shadowing in a variety of woods ranging from ebony, oak and Swiss pear through to dark red madrona. Family photographs will be viewed through 7in by 5in windows in the house frontage.

Mr Feeney, aged 34, has been designing and making fine furniture for about five years. After a college course in cabinet-making, he worked as a pattern-maker, producing detailed, industrialised prototypes for a design consultancy. Deciding he was more comfortable with furniture, he started restoring antiques and doing reconstruction work. "It was very low-key to begin with, mainly by word of mouth," Mr Feeney says. "But once people had one piece, they would come back for another."



Custom-maker: Sean Feeney is never surprised by a client's wishes



Modern classic: A Feeney chair

well as using about eight different chisels, Mr Feeney uses devices such as spokeshaves for shaping chair legs.

Three pieces of Mr Feeney's work — an ash wall unit, a dining chair in hmed oak and a low table in London plane and sycamore, all costing about £650 each — will feature in the largest exhibition of individual designer-makers in wood, to be held in Cheltenham. The exhibition will also mark the publication of *British Craftsmanship in Wood* by Betty Norbury, illustrating the work of 183 craftsmen and small workshops.

SANDY BISP

● Sean Feeney Furniture, the Old School, Preston-on-Stour, Warwickshire (0789 87519). ● British Craftsmanship in Wood exhibition, August 4-12, Thurstaine Long Gallery, Cheltenham College, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (details from Mike Lemmy, 0242 258542). ● British Craftsmanship in Wood, by Betty Norbury will be published by Stobart Davies Ltd. (T...)

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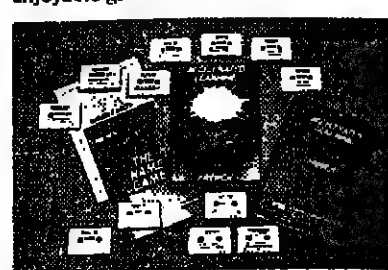
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**Twelve months ago the art market looked in good shape. Now, as Sarah Jane Checkland reports, prices are haywire and all is confusion. What lessons have been learnt?**

A more frightening aspect of the market's flipside is the boom in art theft, often from museums, and involving increasing risk to paintings and people. Recently a number of Van Goghs have been stolen from Dutch museums; there has been a spate of thefts in London's West End, culminating last week with the ramming of Asprey's shop window and the removal of a £742,500 diamond necklace.

The lone list of untraced works

Wishing to resolve the issue once and for all, the lobbying group Save Britain's Heritage initiated a judicial review to

**Doubts: Penelope Luxmoore-May's Stubbs beagle went at auction for a knockdown price**

Another running debate has been the extent to which auctioneers should be liable for the tributions they put in their catalogues. The year has been punctuated by two court cases

A black and white photograph of a cluttered interior room. In the foreground, a patterned sofa and a small table are visible. The background features a large window, a doorway, and a wall with a framed picture. The room appears to be in a state of disrepair or abandonment.

**Stolen: empty frames are all that remains of 16 Old Master paintings from the Alfred Beit collection**

The archaeological community refused to accept that it just appeared from nowhere. Claims

**Doubts: Sotheby's is under investigation by Scotland Yard over the Sevso silver treasure**  
**to the Manhattan Supreme Court said.**

**ANTI  
COLL**

One thing is certain: the next instalment will defy expectation. That is what makes the art market such an enjoyable spectator sport.

**A lake of wine at Sotheby's end of season sale. Includes some quality claret (nine bottles of Chateau Lafite 1914 estimated at £900 to £1,200) and the private cellar of a retired Belgian wine merchant featuring a selection of Bordeaux and Burgundy from the 1950s and 1960s.**



**THURSDAY July 26**

For the man who has everything but a title, lordships of the manor are an auction by manor auctioneers. Partnership of Buckinghamshire. Includes the barony and manor of Morpeth, believed to be the first English barony to come to auction this century and the Superiority of Auchterellon, Aberdeen (estimated for both £50,000 to £70,000).

**Bakelite radios in tie finery** *Odern at Christie's* South Kensington, where the original Echo AD65 of 1934 is expected to fetch £250 to £300, while the B53, with lace-trimmed tie, £150 to £200. A tie included at £250 to £350. Also estimated will be a tieoff phonograph - dating from about 1880 - at £1,500 to £2,500.

FRIDAY July 27

**Economics and political philosophy**, including first editions of *Indian Currency and Finance*, J.M. Keynes's first book, and a miscellany of letters by grandees including the Duke of Wellington and George III, at Bloomsbury book auctions.

**Storey's**, 34-35 New Bond  
 Street, London W1 (071-493  
 8080); **Storey's Sussex**, Sum-  
 mers Place, Billingshurst, W.  
 Sussex (0403-783933); **Christie's**,  
 8 King Street, London SW1 (071-  
 839 9060) and 85 Old Brompton  
 Road, London SW7 (071-581  
 7611); **Phillips**, 101 New Bond  
 Street, London W1 (071-629  
 6602); **Metropolitan Auctioneers**,  
 100 Victoria Station's Hall, Ave-  
 nue Maria Lane, Redgate Hill, London  
 EC4 (0753-630100); **Bloomsbury**  
 book auctions, 3/4 Hardwick Street,  
 London EC1R (071-333 2636);  
**Coy's of Kensington**, 2/4 Queens  
 Gate Mews, London SW7 (071-  
 584 7444).

# Royal progress in china



**A lifetime remembered: some of the items collected by Herbert Ward to be sold by Bonhams**

First comes a fine English delft charger showing James II on horseback (estimate £5,000). Last is a small china mug marking the Queen Mother's eightieth birthday a decade ago (estimate £50 to £70). In between come all the plump Georges and their consorts,

Cynical propaganda plates are rare and valuable. Good examples are the pieces issued around 1789 at the first bout of "Royal Madness" by George III, saying "Britons rejoice, Cheer up and Sing and drink his Health, God Save the King" (£600 to £800).

The biography-in-china was interrupted after the war when china was restricted and militarized and it is the Queen Mother's 80th and 90th birthday which has probably inspired most of the commemorative crockery of her life.

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## ARTS

مكزامن الأرحل



Surviving natively on their own celebrity: Michael Caine and Roger Moore in Thursday's gala

## Some birthday party

Sheridan Morley, at the Palladium, enjoys a multitude of stars gathered to honour the Queen Mother

FOR those of us whose recent experiences of royal variety shows have suggested that most of the acts had risen especially from the grave for the honour of being there, what happened on Thursday night at the London Palladium was something of a revelation. Mind you, with stall prices at £1,000 a ticket, it probably should have been nothing less.

In honour of the Queen Mother's imminent 90th, in the presence of herself and her two daughters and her son-in-law, and in aid of numerous charities, Sir John Gielgud (himself a mere four years from his junior) introduced what he promised would be "a rather large present". There followed an immensely brisk and efficient two-and-a-half show-business hours.

We were taken on an annotated tour of the nine theatrical decades through which Her Majesty has lived, starting a little prematurely

with *The Pirates of Penzance* and working through to Wayne Sleep (the Mickey Rooney of the High Kick) in *Song and Dance*.

Along the way, with only the faintest overtones of *This is Your Life*, we heard Gielgud himself doing, quite wonderfully, the 1914 speech from *Forty Years On*, Geraldine McEwan recalling a Glamis childhood, and then of course Dame Vera Lynn, bringing the first half to a ritual second world war close. Looking up at the evident pleasure of Her Majesty in a box decked with enough flowers to subside interluders indefinitely, one suddenly saw the delighted recognition of a sister under the skin. Her Majesty and Dame Vera have after all spent large parts of not totally dissimilar lives standing on platforms waving at enormous numbers of people in uniform.

True, the evening had its own Gothic moments of cringing uselessness: Cliff Richard, dressed in a kind of sparkling eiderdown, announcing despite all historical evidence that "Darling we are the young ones", while Michael Caine and Roger Moore desperately tried to get through a racing sketch so appallingly written that it left them to survive on nothing more than their own celebrity.

On balance, however, this was

an immaculately planned evening. There was Placido doing his Mario Lanza impersonations, Warren Mitchell doing his now definitive Doolittle from *My Fair Lady*, Simon Cadell and Patricia Hodge recalling Noel and Gertie, Sarah Brightman, in what must have been the most personally traumatic music of the night, singing Lloyd Webber, Dame Kiri doing her birthday anthem, Stephen Fry reviving a classic cabaret monologue, and Rowan Atkinson offering a new one about an Australian rabbit poisoner mysteriously invited to address royalty with his memories of Laurence Olivier.

Best of all was to see the Queen Mother cheerfully singing along with Flanagan and Allen as reincarnated quite superbly by Bernie Winters and Leslie Crowther in a routine ruined only by the mysterious appearance of lines of random television quiz hosts at its end.

All in all, however, a night of considerable triumph for the producer Louis Benjamin and his director Yvonne Littlewood. Any-one who ever again thinks of staging a royal variety show should watch this one (BBC 1, August 4) and then do something else, for it will not be easily rivalled.

## THEATRE

Games  
Gate, Notting Hill

IVAN Klima is Czech; for 20 years his novels have remained unpublished and his plays unperformed. A poignant note reprinted from the programme of the 1975 premiere of this play, in Vienna, reads: "I would like to see the play staged... If I count correctly, then *Games* is the fifth play of mine that I am not allowed to see."

A country scared of allowing its writers the freedom to show their works damages itself thereby; it

can also harm the writers. And while the events after 1968 do not seem to have stopped Klima writing clear, economical novels, his inability to see any of his plays in production has affected his skill in making them work as drama.

I have only this play as evidence, since its production by the newly-formed Midnight Theatre Company is the British premiere of Klima's work. But *Games* shows that unless an author hears in rehearsal how wordy his speeches sound, he will not rewrite them for a performance. Too often the characters interrupt the menacing games they are playing to make known their views on liberty and justice — issues vital to a people labouring under

tyranny, but hardly functionally dramatic.

When John Moreno, playing an empty-headed nihilist, makes politically sharp remarks about the police, these are integral to the unfolding plot. But this is exceptional. More typical are the scenes in which seven characters sit reading, wriggling or twitching their fingers while the eighth specifies. It is not a good recipe for involving an audience.

The play also shows that the presence of six loaded pistols and a rifle repeatedly aimed at characters is no guarantee that any of them will end up with a bullet between the eyes. Chekhov remarked that it is wrong to bring on a gun in Act I if it is not to be fired

by Act IV: Klima's variation is to bring on the gun but use a hangman's noose instead.

The eight acquaintances gather in a judge's home to play charades, murder and finally executions. It is hard to know when these games are played for real, or why, though Michael Medwin's deceptively bland entrepreneur often seems to be on the point of clarifying the matter for us, and Bill Britten's intense sociologist (a clever performance) occasionally begins to do so. When there is activity, Derek Wax's production generates a good swirl of movement on the small stage: when there is speechifying, the evening drags.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Ivan Vasilevich  
Battersea Arts Centre

THE Company of Clerks' production of *Ivan Vasilevich* may not exert quite the same box office magnetism as Michael J. Fox in *Back to the Future III*, but this time-travel play by Mikhail Bulgakov undoubtedly has its charms. Though its twists of plot now seem commonplace, there is no lack of ingenuity and fizz.

A programme note claims that the play, written at the height of Stalin's power, "represents an fantasy escape from persecution, echoing Bulgakov's own fight against state and artistic repression." Sadly, Guy Retallack's direction brings out only the fantasy and the comedy tends towards the anodyne.

The action falls neatly into two halves. In the first, the statutory mad professor dreams up an unpredictable Tardis, a C.S. Lewis-style wardrobe, which transports Ivan the Terrible into the present (ie the 1930s). The resulting mayhem is delightful, as noble savage meets troubled civilisation. Andrew Williams's spirited Ivan is a pouting grumbler, with his lugubrious, sorrowful air, this Tsar might easily get the part of Eeyore in the next remake of *Winnie the Pooh*.

In the second half, two men from the present are whisked back into the throne room of the absent Ivan (still trapped in a foreign world of art deco and bakelite) and attempt to impersonate the mighty ruler. The deception is firmly in the tradition of *The Government Inspector*, but lacks the multi-faceted dramatic ironies

of that play, or indeed of the first half of this one. The problems of mistaken identity begin to pale after the interval.

Retallack's stylised approach would be fine if it were coherent, but in playing up the superficiality of the play, he merely emphasises its rough, pock-marked surface. Suspension of disbelief becomes harder to sustain, and though the acting of this large cast is full of energy, it tends to lack the expansiveness that would convincingly bridge the cast/audience divide. Penny Dimond's doll-like flapper is a notable exception. Frequent clumsiness and comic possibilities falling by the wayside suggest that the play is under-rehearsed. It is fun, certainly, but Bulgakov deserves better on the 50th anniversary of his death.

MICHAEL WRIGHT

Penny Dimond and Andrew Williams in *Ivan Vasilevich*

## Roaring Forties

In Paris, Diane Hill has mixed feelings about Jérôme Savary's new musical, *Zazou*

baptised Zazou and is seduced by the handsome Jean.

Exiled by her parents to the country, Zazou discovers she is pregnant. When she returns to Paris to tell Jean he is a father, Zazou learns he is doing forced labour on a German farm. Jean's duties eventually include bedding the farmer's wife. The Americans liberate Paris, and Zazou (a single parent in a *chambre de bonne*) finds light relief in the arms of a passing GI called Dizzy (convincingly played by Allen Hoist).

From then on, the unpalatable flavour of the scenario takes on an unsavoury taste with Zazou working as a hat-check girl in the Tabou Club, and Jean celebrating peace with his *milchikéu*. The years pass, as years do in musicals, with a song and a dance, until a contrived piece of mis-timing has Jean arriving at the Tabou to find Dizzy, Zazou and his five-year-old son dancing on the tables. Scandalised, Jean flees and joins

the Foreign Legion, only to be killed in action (a nauseating tear-jerker of a scene), leaving Zazou, abandoned by Dizzy, to dance alone, mystically at midnight on the sands of Saint Tropez.

This naïve and seedy dramatic framework is crudely clad in an unharmonious pot-pourri of songs of the era and about a dozen fumble-footed dance routines. Michel Dussaut's costumes are Zazou-zany, but like Jean Moussy's choreography, they lack the visual cohesion that crafts a string of song-and-dance acts into what today's glitz-wise audiences expect from a musical.

Savary also puts his name to the *scenographie*, so the impoverished-looking cardboard cutout sets are either of his design or the result of a subsidy that ran out earlier: than anticipated in a season that opened flush with francs. The economy-size cast also have a hard time filling the Chailloir's generous main stage, especially

the six-strong chorus, whose youthful energy is no substitute for the polish of well-honed choreography. Only Oswald d'Andrea's musical direction escapes the overall tackiness.

With the capitals of the world alive to the sound of musicals, Savary — who recently successfully introduced a topless chorus-line into Molière's *Bourgeois Gentilhomme* — was obviously hoping that *Zazou* would be an international hit. Where Savary does excel is, as he is fond of saying, "not casting stars but making them."

It was his French production of *Cabaret* that gave German-born Ute Lemper the springboard from which to launch herself into orbit and her own show. Portuguese-born Maria de Madeiros does not have Lemper's length of leg but she readily puts the required kick into the role of Zazou, tailoring the shoddy material into a theatrical suit of clothes worthy of an Emperor. Since the doll-like de Madeiros came to France in 1984 to complete her theatrical studies, she has been steeped in the classical repertoire. *Zazou* reveals she can sing and dance as well as act.

After the usual summer break, *Zazou* reopens on September 7.

## ROCK: NEW YORK

## Right-on rebels

Steve Turner on shades of radicalism at the annual New Music Seminar

There was one hot music style and one hot issue at this year's New Music Seminar, which ended on Wednesday night in Manhattan. The music was rap and the issue was freedom of expression.

The two collided last month when a rap quartet called 2 Live Crew, who played a closing night concert for the seminar, had their album, *Nasty As They Wanna Be*, declared obscene and illegal in three counties of Florida. Four days later, two members of the group were arrested for performing songs from the album. Earlier, a record store clerk was arrested after selling the album to an 11-year-old, and charged with "selling harmful material to a minor".

This was all exciting stuff for the 8,000 New Music Seminar delegates. It supplied the sort of *frisson* which alternative music thrives on. "Rock 'n' roll finally has a cause," declared the rock star Laurie Anderson in an address. "Artists have become the new communists."

The seminar, which started in 1980 with 200 delegates in a

rehearsal studio, is the alternative to such mainstream affairs as the Grammy award ceremony and Midem. Its commitment is to alternative music and independent labels, and it boasts that it has its ear to the ground, while major record companies, usually dismissed as "guys in suits", have their heads in the sand.

Yet it is never as simple as that. While executive director Mark Josephson talked of the "fringe radicals" attending the seminar, his colleague, Tom Silverman, encouraged delegates to see themselves as "tomorrow's mainstream". It is well known, for instance, that in 1982 Madonna attended the seminar to sell her demo tape.

In the discussions there was persistent moaning. No one thought their form of music received enough serious media attention. In other words, being radical and producing alternative music is only a route towards commercial acceptance.

Independent record companies are aware that since Sun Records of Memphis discovered Elvis Presley and



Laurie Anderson: "Artists are the new communists"

sold him to RCA, they have been the talent scouts of the rock industry. "Because we are smaller, we can move more quickly," said Moira Lynch, president of Tommy Boy Records.

Rap perfectly suits the spirit of the seminar. It is urban, do-it-yourself music which upsets conservatives and is usually independently produced. In the exhibition area, a temporary "rapateria" had been set up, with a mock subway set, where rappers did floor-spots all afternoon to packed audiences. One rapper, Ice Cube, sold 900,000 albums without the benefit of airplay or a video. Others make up their own cassettes and sell them on the streets.

Rappers interpret the arrest of 2 Live Crew and the practice of sticking warning labels on albums as part of a plot by middle-class whites to stop their children from empathising with black Americans. "Rap is the most powerful joining music. That's why they want to shut it down," said the rapper, Ice T.

While the theme set by the keynote speakers was freedom of expression, the theme of New Music Nights, in which more than 400 acts performed in venues all over Manhattan, was "A Global Affair". Special

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MONDAY 23 JULY  
WEDNESDAY 25 JULY  
FRIDAY 27 JULY  
SATURDAY 28 JULY  
TUESDAY 31 JULY  
THURSDAY 2 AUGUST  
SATURDAY 4 AUGUST  
SUNDAY 5 AUGUST  
FRIDAY 10 AUGUST  
SATURDAY 11 AUGUST



BBC 1

- 6.40 Open University: Pure Maths — In Perspective 7.05 Data Models and Databases
- 7.30 Playdays: Educational series for the young. With Brian Jameson (r) 7.50 Muppet Babies (r)
- 8.15 The 8.15 from Manchester. The Gremmins invade for a special interview on the children's magazine programme, already in chaos with the arrival of a new cartoon called The Jetsons. Repeat: features more budding pop stars, while the Chimes perform in the studio as does the winner of yesterday's Young Guiltiest of the Year competition. Charlotte Hindle wanders round the British Music Fair, trying out innovative musical ideas
- 11.05 Film: Captain Smit (1983) starring Guy Williams and Heidi Brühl. Above average sword-and-sorcery adventure with the intrepid captain and his expendable crew as they bid to rescue his princess love from the evil clutches of El Krim, an immortal enchanter who can be killed only if his heart is removed from a magic tower. Directed by Byron Haskin 12.27
- 12.30 Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.35, 1.05, 2.05, 2.35 and 3.05 Golf: first round action from the British Open at St Andrews. The commentators are Peter Alliss and Bruce Crichtley. 1.00 News: 1.55, 2.25 and 2.55 Hacking from Newbury. The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan, Julian Wilson and Jimmy Lindley
- 5.05 News with Moira Stuart Weather 6.15 Regional news and sport

BBC 2

- 6.50 Open University: Maths — Fibonacci Numbers 7.15 The Changing Face of Poverty 7.40 Geology: Glaciers 8.05 The Passover among Jews 8.30 Exmoor: A Self Portrait 8.55 Information Technology: CIM 9.20 Social Work in the Inner City 9.45 English Romantic Poets in Italy 10.10 Images: The Crab Nebula 10.35 Fundamentals of Computing: One Small Step 11.00 The Effective Manager: Meetings 11.25 Evolution: The Islands of Hawaii 11.50 Flowering of Rosebud 12.15 Education: All Down History 12.40 Microelectronics for Industry 1.05 Science: Volcanic Island 1.30 Modern Art: Legat 1.55 Peter Breugel and Popular Culture 2.20 Perceptions of the IMF
- 2.45 Mahabharata. Episode 15 of the 91-part dramatisation of the Indian epic poem. Krishna grows into a handsome young man, but while the village girls are enraptured by his good looks, Krishna is not impressed by his decision to stop the Pandavas, using butler to pay their taxes. In Hindi with English subtitles
- 3.25 Animation Now. Living Colour — a short animated feature
- 3.30 Film: Botany Bay (1932) starring Alan Ladd, James Mason and Patricia Medina. A student finds himself on board a ship bound for Australia as a prisoner when he is wrongly convicted of highway robbery. The captain is harsh towards his captive passengers and they suffer cruel torments. Impressively shot and robustly acted, this drama, based on the novel by Charles Nordhoff, focuses on the conflict between the wronged

- 5.20 Bugs Bunny. Cartoon fun with the cunning rabbit (r)
- 5.30 The 100th Royal Tournament. A special occasion marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and also the 100th year of the tournament. All the regular events take place, including the grueling Royal Navy Field Gun Competition, the White Helmet motorcycle display and the Metropolitan Police Dogs display, plus various special features such as the Royal Mennies Arctic Battle. Military bands are on hand to provide the musical tributes. Eric Robson is the commentator
- 6.35 'Allo 'Allo! Popular comedy series set in occupied France during the second world war. René and Michelle plan to run away to Switzerland, funded by the gold they have stolen from General Von Klinkerhoffen, but the train they are travelling on seems to have a few unwanted extras, like Herr Flick and Von Smalhausen of the Gestapo. Gruber, the Colonel, Helge and even René's wife Edith. Starring Gordon Kaye, Carmen Silvera, Vicki Michelle and Sue Hodge (r)
- 7.00 The Last Dinner Party. A comedy series about a half-hour in the company of Les Dennis, who demonstrates his spoof talents by mimicking the likes of Blue Peter presenters, satellite television, the Yellow Pages advert and a health farm. Lisa Maxwell, Martin Daniels and Bruce Crichtley. The comedy is going to get tough. (Comedy). Postponed from last Saturday
- 7.30 Takeover Bid. Bruce Forsyth hosts another round of the ruthless game show in which contestants leave to amass as many prizes as they can by

- young man and the seductive skipper. Energetically directed by John Farrow.
- 6.00 Golf: The Open. Continuing the coverage of the third round at the Old Course, St Andrews, which began on BBC 1
- 6.45 Eyes on the Prize. A six-part documentary examining the struggle of black Americans for their rights. The 1954 Supreme Court ruling against segregation in schools fails to make any impact because there is no organisation to enforce it. When a black 14-year-old boy is murdered for supposedly "talking trash" to a white woman and the murderers are acquitted, black Americans decide that enough is enough and begin the movements that will bring about the changes of the 1950s and 1960s (r)
- 7.45 What the Papers Say. Peter Miller, deputy editor of The European, examines the Press's reaction to the Nicholas Ridley affair (r)
- 8.00 NewsView with Moira Stuart and Lynette Litgow. Weather
- 8.45 Theatre Night: Iphigénie at Aulis. The first drama in Euripides' war trilogy has been translated and directed by Don Taylor. Starring Fiona Shaw (as Clytemnestra) and Roy Marsden (as Agamemnon). The Greek fleet are about to set sail for Troy to sack the city in an effort to regain Helen, the wife of Menelaus, and to revenge the wound to their pride delivered by Paris, but they find themselves unable to sail due to a lack of wind, and tempers begin to fray. Calchas, the priest, decides that a human sacrifice is needed — that of Iphigénie, daughter of Agamemnon, the commander-in-chief. (Comedy)

- taking them from each other. With Claire Sutton. (Comedy)
- 8.00 Miss Marple: Sleeping Murder. Another case for the CIP super-detective, in a re-run of a series to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Agatha Christie. A family from New Zealand arrives at Hilsdale, a Devon country house. One of the new residents, Gwendolyn Reed, begins to feel uncomfortable in the house and then has a strange vision of a man strangling a woman. Miss Marple is called in to investigate when Gwendolyn believes that the man and woman could be her father and mother. Starring Joan Hickson, Joan Maudsley-Crow and Peter Copley (r) (Comedy)
- 9.50 News with Moira Stuart Sport and weather
- 10.10 Rocklife's Babies: Easy Meat. Successful police drama starring Ian Hogg as the anonymous Sergeant Rocklife who is in charge of a group of new, newly qualified officers. Tonight when the local hospital nurses are being frightened by someone, the WPCs go undercover to root out the strange attacker. Hood believes that it is one of the staff, but he soon discovers that things are not so clear cut (r)
- 11.00 Film: Fame (1980) starring Irene Cara, Lee Curreri and Gene Anthony Ray. A musical drama following the students of New York's High School of the Performing Arts as they try to make their dreams a reality despite the harsh world in which they live. The very best individual story is followed by a number of irritating loose ends, but the Oscar-winning score is superb. Directed by Alan Parker
- 11.00m Weather

- 10.45 Golf: The Open. Highlights of the third round from St Andrews, introduced by Harry Carpenter
- 11.35 Film: Dr Strangelove (1963, b/w). If you have difficulty tonight hearing the dialogue in Stanley Kubrick's nuclear war film, it is probably because of the din made by the demolition of the walls of the Berlin Wall. In recent months, has imparted a faintly museum quality to Kubrick's 1963 vision of a world gone mad. It is, however, a museum packed to the doors with terrific exhibits, and one of the most spectacular showcases houses the phenomenal talents of Peter Sellers in the triple role of RAF group captain, president of the United States, and the apocalyptic scientist of most sinister aspect. Unthinkable in colour, Dr Strangelove is still the black-and-white fantasy to end all black-and-white fantasies. Familiarity with it has not bred contempt. Ends at 1.15am

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am
- 9.25 Ghost Train. A medley of music, cartoons and competitions. Today's guests include actor Peter O'Brien and wildlife expert Chris Packham and there is music from Bananarama, Big Fun and Technoboy
- 11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Vintage Video features Squeeze
- 12.30 Huckleberry Finn and His Friends. 1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 1.05 LWT News and weather
- 1.10 A Beetle Called Derek. Andrea Arnold tackles more green issues from a positive angle
- 1.40 Coronation Street (r)
- 2.35 International Rugby. Highlights of the first match between New Zealand and Australia in the series for the Bledisloe Cup
- 3.35 Film: Crooks Anonymous (1981, b/w) starring Leslie Phillips, Stanley Baxter and Julia Christie. Enjoyable star-studded comedy about a jewel thief, "Dandy" Forsythe, who decides to put crime behind him, but finds the temptations too much. Directed by Ken Annakin
- 5.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 5.05 LWT News and weather
- 5.15 News: Dead Man Tell No Tales. Duncan Regier stars as the adventurer dedicated to fighting for justice in 19th century California
- 5.45 Champion Blockbusters presented by Bob Holmes
- 6.25 Staying in Their Eyes. ● Maybe, as Leslie Crompton insists, this knockout contest for impressionists is brand new to television. But it will take more than mere novelty to attract to this new



Shirley Bassey or a look-alike? (8.35pm)

series those viewers who believe, for example, that there is only one thing worse than Kylie Minogue — and that is the spectacle of someone impersonating Kylie Minogue. It is, however, a very good impersonation (vocal and physical trills are meticulously duplicated), and the same goes for the programme's other stand-ins for Frank Sinatra, John Lennon, Shirley Bassey et al. Money-wise, nothing has been spared to give these lookalikes a stage setting that even the stars they are aping might have envied, even to the swirling grand mist without which it seems no 1/2 stage act can be performed nowadays. Mr Crompton's capacity to be astounded by the impressionists' skill makes up for his interviewing shortcomings

7.05 It's a Beautiful Morning over the top prints and ridiculous challenges

7.35 Close to Home. Comedy series starring Paul Nicholas as a perpetually harassed divorced dad (r) (Comedy)

8.05 The Saint: Wrong Number. Simon Dutton stars as suave adventurer Simon

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Comic Book 7.30 International Times 8.00 Transworld Sport 9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning
- 9.25 Australian Rules Football
- 10.30 Hand in Hand. Series for hearing impaired children (r) 11.00 Check Out. Consumer affairs (r). (Teletext)
- 11.30 Wagon Train (b/w). Vintage western adventures
- 12.30 California Off Beat. Award-winning reporter Walter Freeman takes a light-hearted look at the eccentric state of California
- 1.00 Film: The Courtneys of Curzon Street (1947, b/w) starring Anna Neagle and Michael Wilding. Romantic and stylish story of a young Guards officer who marries his mother's maid. Featring that she is running his life and credibility in Edwardian England, she runs off to Ireland where she gives birth to their son. They meet again during the second world war. Directed by Herbert Wilcox
- 3.05 Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket. The 3.15, 3.45, 4.15 and 4.45 races
- 5.10 Brookside Omnibus (r). (Teletext)
- 6.30 Tour de France 1990. Stage 20 — Lac de Vassivière en Limousin individual time trial over a distance of 49km. Phil Liggett and Paul Sherwen are the commentators
- 7.00 The World This Week includes a discussion on the situation in Cambodia: reports on the Philippines and on Israel's housing problems caused by the arrival of Soviet Jews; and news of the peace talks between Pappas New Guinea's government and the rebel leaders of Bougainville

- 8.00 Kingdom of the Deep. Penguin Island. Cindy Budock and Annie Price marvel at the wildlife of an uninhabited island in the Falklands
- 9.00 Thirty-something. American comedy/drama series exploring the lives of seven friends in their mid-thirties. (Teletext)



On the Wall: giant inflatable puppet (10.00pm)

10.00 The Wall. ● Just when the real Berlin Wall is being torn down, another one goes up in its place tonight, albeit only 60ft long and 60ft high. And, no sooner up, but down it will come. This is a live transmission, from the shadow of the Brandenburg Gate, of Roger Waters' The Wall which, in its Pink Floyd album version, sold more than 19 million copies. The new Berlin Wall will be the screen on which Gerald Scarfe's

surreal animation sequences — already seen in a 1981 movie version of The Wall — will be projected. For the show's highly symbolic finale (matching the symbolism of bands and choirs from East and West Germany playing on the same stage) the gap between the tumbling down live performers tonight include Roger Waters and the Bleeding Heart Band, Jori Mitchell, Van Morrison, Sinead O'Connor, Fine Young Canns, and as the judge, Albert Finney

12.20am Verdict. ● It's a fact that no programme on Channel 4 tonight will set so many viewers' heads nodding (in approval or shaking (in disapproval)) as the round-table discussion aimed at achieving a majority 10 to 2 million vote on a real-life, personal, topical universal concern. The Channel 4ers should be well and truly up to the part-time job that is being only a domestic justification and stay-at-home to look after the ageing mother who wants to move in with her? A professional actress plays the troubled daughter but the "jurors" are real! So convincing is age, and so persuasive are they in explaining why they are either sticking to their current positions or amending them in the light of the deliberations, that the borderline between the rehearsed and the spontaneous is not blatantly obvious

1.35 The Harp in the South. Adaptation of Ruth Park's classic Australian novel about the lives of an Irish-Australian family struggling to get on in the aftermath of the second world war. This week's daughter Rose gets into a bit of trouble, while Hughie won't stop drinking. This has more difficult times for the family. Ends at 2.30

ITV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA As London except: 3.35pm-5.00pm Film: The Best Years of Our Lives 3.35-4.00pm Night Gallery
- BORDER As London except: 1.40pm-2.35pm The Life and Times of Grizel Adams 3.35-5.00pm Film: Made in Heaven 11.15pm Film: The Hit Man and Her 4.00pm William Tell 4.30-5.00pm America's Top Ten
- CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm The Champions 3.35-5.00pm Film: The Hit Man and Her 4.00pm William Tell 4.30-5.00pm America's Top Ten
- CHANNEL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm Wind-up 3.35-5.00pm Film: The Hit Man and Her 4.00pm William Tell 4.30-5.00pm America's Top Ten

- GRANPIAN As London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm Film: The Hit Man and Her 4.00pm William Tell 4.30-5.00pm America's Top Ten
- GRANADA As London except: 1.40pm-2.35pm The Oldies 5.10-5.15pm Film: The Desperate Miles 11.15pm Film: The Hit Man and Her 4.00pm William Tell 4.30-5.00pm America's Top Ten
- HIT WEST As London except: 3.35pm-5.00pm The Hit Man and Her 4.00pm William Tell 4.30-5.00pm America's Top Ten
- SCOTTISH As London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm The Champions 3.35-5.00pm Film: The Hit Man and Her 4.00pm William Tell 4.30-5.00pm America's Top Ten

- TSW As London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm The Hit Man and Her 4.00pm William Tell 4.30-5.00pm America's Top Ten
- TVS As London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm Wind-up 3.35-5.00pm Film: The Hit Man and Her 4.00pm William Tell 4.30-5.00pm America's Top Ten
- TYNE TEES As London except: 1.40pm-2.35pm The Hit Man and Her 4.00pm William Tell 4.30-5.00pm America's Top Ten
- ULSTER As London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm The Champions 3.35-5.00pm Film: The Hit Man and Her 4.00pm William Tell 4.30-5.00pm America's Top Ten

- RADIO 1 6.55am Open University (FM only) 6.55-7.00am News 7.00-7.15am News 7.15-7.30am News 7.30-7.45am News 7.45-8.00am News 8.00-8.15am News 8.15-8.30am News 8.30-8.45am News 8.45-9.00am News 9.00-9.15am News 9.15-9.30am News 9.30-9.45am News 9.45-10.00am News 10.00-10.15am News 10.15-10.30am News 10.30-10.45am News 10.45-11.00am News 11.00-11.15am News 11.15-11.30am News 11.30-11.45am News 11.45-12.00am News 12.00-12.15am News 12.15-12.30am News 12.30-12.45am News 12.45-1.00am News 1.00-1.15am News 1.15-1.30am News 1.30-1.45am News 1.45-1.60am News 1.60-1.75am News 1.75-1.90am News 1.90-2.05am News 2.05-2.20am News 2.20-2.35am News 2.35-2.50am News 2.50-3.05am News 3.05-3.20am News 3.20-3.35am News 3.35-3.50am News 3.50-4.05am News 4.05-4.20am News 4.20-4.35am News 4.35-4.50am News 4.50-5.05am News 5.05-5.20am News 5.20-5.35am News 5.35-5.50am News 5.50-6.05am News 6.05-6.20am News 6.20-6.35am News 6.35-6.50am News 6.50-7.05am News 7.05-7.20am News 7.20-7.35am News 7.35-7.50am 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## THE POWER STATION



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**SWARTZ**  
**Reddalling**  
**in Paris**

**Family affair**

**Working out**

**OVERS**

**Very calls**

**Distinct mark**

**Fast**



SUMMARY

Pedalling to Paris



CAN Greg LeMond win the Tour de France for the second successive year? With two days remaining, the American is only five seconds behind Claudio Chiappucci (above), of Italy. The climax to the three-week race, on the Champs Elysees tomorrow, promises to be as dramatic as last year, when LeMond recovered lost time to beat the Frenchman, Laurent Fignon, by eight seconds. Page 32

EQUESTRIANISM

Family affair

JOHN and Michael Whitaker, the most successful brothers in show jumping, go into the world championships in Stockholm next week hoping to win gold medals for Britain. Jenny MacArthur talks to the brothers, who will be rivals and team mates for Britain in Sweden, and looks at their careers. Page 34

FOOTBALL

Speaking out

WHATEVER happened to Chris Waddle in the World Cup? In a revealing interview, the enigma of England talks of the pressures on the team and himself in Italy as he prepares for his second season in French football with Marseilles. Page 28

CRICKET

Final overs



ENGLAND and Ireland met yesterday in what was a dress rehearsal for the final of the European Cup for women's cricket. Carol Hodgson (above) hopes to regain her place in the England side for tomorrow's match after injury. Report and prospects. Page 30

RUGBY UNION

Injury calls

ROB Andrew is unlikely to receive permission from his employers to join England's injury-stricken rugby union tourists in Argentina. Instead, England, who meet Buenos Aires today, are considering calling in Jonathan Callard, the Bath full back. Page 28

RACING

Distinct mark



FRANKIE Dettori (above), the young Italian jockey, fresh from a double on American and Madriya at Newbury yesterday, will be in action at Atlantic City tonight to partner another Luca Cumani horse, Markofdistinction, in the Caesars Palace Stakes. Pages 32, 33

YACHTING

Ultra fast

THE fastest monohulls on the water are Ultra 30s, giant, high-tech dinghies capable of speeds more than 25 knots. Not only are they attractive to those seeking excitement, they are also the craft being used for a regular professional racing circuit. If you prefer motorised transport, the Princess 415 may be the boat for weekends away. Page 37

Big three give the Open ideal finishing scenario



Hat dance: Peter Jacobson, of the United States, celebrates his birdie on the legendary Road Hole, the 17th, in the Open Championship at St Andrews yesterday

By MITCHELL PLATT  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE could be no better scenario this weekend for the 119th Open Championship at St Andrews than to have Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam vying for the title with the Australian, Greg Norman, and there could hardly have been a more romantic moment than that which saw Jamie Spence move among their midst on the Old Course yesterday.

Norman, the Open champion in 1986, provided moments of high drama, which included pitching in for an eagle at the 14th, on his way to a second successive 66 for a 12-under-par score of 132, as Faldo and Woosnam lifted the hearts of their supporters with performances that left the Australian with little breathing space.

Spence is a mere David compared to these Goliaths of the fairways, although he belied his inexperience of such occasions by compiling a 65. For that, he received deserved acclamation, even if, understandably, it could not be compared to the tumultuous welcome given to Arnold Palmer as he completed a marvellous 71.

No fewer than 33 years, not to mention two Opens, four Masters and a sizeable deposit in the Chase Manhattan Bank, separate Spence from the legendary Palmer. Spence, aged 27, has only once, since turning professional in 1985, finished in the top ten in a PGA

European Tour event, so it is hardly a surprise that he has not previously played in the Open Championship.

However, he has an attachment to the Open since Cleanmaster, the company which sponsors him, are responsible for servicing the portable latrines. Spence has himself been suffering from food poisoning since Saturday, when he was advised prior to the pre-qualifying to eat little and take fluids, vitamins and glucose. He has subsequently lost weight and gained a reputation.

Since Spence was the first to tee off in the second round he awoke to find the "auld grey toon" beneath a blanket of cloud, which the sun struggled to penetrate until late in the day, when the capricious wind, changing direction from hour to hour, became more of a zephyr as Faldo, Norman and Woosnam made their moves.

There was not a cloud on the horizon as far as Spence was concerned as he gathered eight birdies, although that was not the case last Christmas Day when his father, James, suffered a heart attack. "It made me realise that there is much more to life than worrying about making halfway cuts," Spence said.

Spence has been doing that for most of his career, treading his weary way back to the qualifying school no fewer than five times, and he has been the victim of the guillotine in each of his last four tournaments.

LEADERS

Par	Player	Holes
-12	Norman	34
-10	Faldo	32
-9	Woosnam	33
-8	Spence	35
-7	Stewart	36
-7	Reid	36
-7	Spence	36
-7	Prior	36

He owed his emergence from anonymity, not only to the determination born from the desire to cheer his father, who will be present this weekend, but to some exhilarating approach shots including one at the 17th which will live with him forever. There, his five-iron shot from 188 yards out-tipped the hole, although with a putt of eight feet for a birdie, he saw for the first time his name go on the Open leader board.

Spence will start this morning on the leader board, but he would be the first to accept that the attention will mostly focus on the likes of Faldo, Norman and Woosnam. Not that they alone can expect to dominate this Championship with so many outstanding contenders hard on their heels.

Stewart missed only one green which was the 17th where he salvaged his par. The American appeared comfortable both in his plus twos and with his game. He wore the colours of the Green Bay Packers of Wisconsin, the state famed for their dairy products, and the look of a man who feels he

can like cream rise to the top. He has quite recently worked with a sports psychologist, which has led to him being less critical of the inevitable bad shot. He has become increasingly confident with a putter in his hands. He was not entirely favoured for fortune on the greens although he did hole one putt on 20 feet at the sixth.

Nick Price has, on two occasions, come close to winning the Open. Tom Watson proved "too good" for him in 1982, and Severiano Ballesteros denied him in 1988. The Zimbabwean had no desire to exact revenge on them, yet he was given the perfect opportunity, since all three were paired together. Price took the honours with five birdies in a flawless 67 to join the American, Mike Reid, (67) and Spence on 137, whereas Ballesteros and Watson, who each took 73, lost all hope of emulating their deeds of 1984 at St Andrews.

José María Olazábal now looks more and more certain to assume the role of Spanish No. 1 from Ballesteros. He succeeded for the second successive day in not missing a green in regulation and if he can discover the reason behind his unusually cold touch on the greens then he will be a threat.

Olazábal needed 37 putts in the first round and another 32 in the second, when he dropped not a shot in compiling a 67 to join several playing on 138, who include Sam Torrance. Not in his 20 years as a

A CROWD of 40,283 flocked to St Andrews yesterday to watch the second round of the 119th Open Championship, the biggest attendance for a day's golf over the Old Course.

The turn-out for the opening round on Thursday was 39,309, making a total of 79,593 for the first two days of the Championship. The second-round attendance record for the Open remains 44,000 at Royal Lytham and St Anne's two years ago.

professional has Torrance made a better start to the Open. He seemed for one marvellous moment on the threshold of taking command, as he gathered four successive birdies from the third, although he was eventually compelled to settle for a 70.

There is little substitute to experience when it comes to playing the Old Course and Lee Trevino provided further evidence of that as he put together a solid round of 70, which put him in touch with the leaders on 139. Jack Nicklaus could also still excel following a 70 for 141.

Open reports and second-round scores, page 29

Balanced attack needed

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EVEN as the latest batch of one-day internationals was concluding at Trent Bridge yesterday, England's selectors were returning their attention to Test match business and, hopefully, a slight change of emphasis.

Since Graham Gooch acceded purposefully to the captaincy, it has been policy to play six specialist batsmen and only four bowlers. Gooch's reasoning is that you do not win Test matches unless you make sufficient runs, a sound theory for the Caribbean last winter, and put convincingly into practice.

The demands of the coming series with India, which starts at Lord's on Thursday, are rather different. India's bowling is not their strong point and if England cannot score enough runs with the highly accomplished top five they have in residence, they are not going to win anyway.

Dismissing the talented Indian batting twice in a game presents a sterner problem and one which surely requires maximum bowling options. It is some while since England went into a Test with an old-fashioned balanced attack of three seamers and two contrasting spinners, but the circumstances are right for it now, even if Gooch's inclinations are likely to remain against it.

Logically, if England are to include a left-arm spin bowler, it should be Keith Medlycott, who was thought good enough to go to the West Indies and then had no real chance to justify himself. He attacks and gets good players out but despite a steady stream of wickets recently he is not bowling with quite the confidence or consistency the selectors will require.

There are two other worthy candidates: Richard Davis, of Kent, and Phil Tufnell, of Middlesex. Both, like Medlycott, are past the 40-wicket mark this season. Both are 24 years old. Both are more accurate, though not necessarily more dangerous, than Medlycott. Tufnell, who is impressing many opponents, would be my choice in the week of winning his county cap.

If the seam bowling strength is reduced to three, Malcolm Fraser and Lewis are the obvious choices especially as Small would benefit from a spell recharging his batteries. Lewis is a good enough batsman to go in at No. 7, behind the obdurate Russell, but the essential insurance of a sixth batsman in the party should give an opportunity to Morris, especially with Stewart's fitness now in doubt.

My 12 for Lord's would be: Gooch, Atherton, Gower, Lamb, Smith, Morris, Lewis, Russell, Fraser, Hemmings, Tufnell, Malcolm.

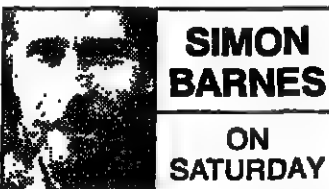
Trent Bridge report and county details, page 30

Hidden cost of a ticket price rise

IT is cricket in danger of selling its heartland for a handful of quids? Certainly, attending a Test match in England is becoming more and more like a serious investment. The cheap options for the young and for the less well-heeled have been weeded out by the combined forces of greed and history. At the Test match against India, which starts on Thursday, public seats cost between £22 and £25; a member's rover — unserved seating for MCC chaps and their guests — costs £20. Had the Compton and Edrich stands been completed, there would have been further seats between £12 and £18. The last time the Indians were here, just four summers back, prices were far easier: £9 for a rover, £9.50 to £14 for the public.

Going back through previous Indian tours, we find in 1982 a rover for £5.50, and seating £6 to £8.50. In 1979, a rover was £8.30. In 1974, a rover was 85p, public seats were £1.30 to £2.10, and it cost 85p to sit on the grass. In 1971, public seating was £1 to £1.75, and rovers and a place on the grass were both 50p.

Granted that ground safety and pitch invasions have changed the way of watching cricket, it is still clear that watching cricket is increasingly the pastime of the well-off. It is a good deal, compared with non-Wagnerian opera — six hours' play and more for 20 quid or so. But opera needs its enthusiasts in the gods, and cricket should be available to all ages and wages. MCC members and executives do all right, and the profit goes back into county cricket. But cricket isn't just about money, is it?



Asian pandemonium

How much would you pay to advertise your wares on a panda? The going rate is \$80,000. I hear that there will be two pandas taking part in the parade before the Asian Games in Peking later this summer. The relationship of Chinese politicians and the panda is one of the most bizarre in the recent history of conservation. The latest notion involves giant pandas carrying advertising hoardings in the role as games mascots. This is a last-ditch attempt to try to get some money back: the cost of these Games has been enormous, and has been estimated at \$126 million. Broadcasting rights have been sold, but the sum of \$900,000 still leaves them a couple of dollars shy of breakeven. The asking rate for Panda Ads is \$80,000, but there has been no rush of takers.

Sports typecasting

Sky-divers and cave-divers are sportspeople. So are cricketers and snooker players. But they are different: the enthusiasts for risk-sports are "Type T personalities". The "T" stands for thrills. This is all the fruit of research by Frank Farley, a professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin. People with a "big T personality" like uncertainty, novelty and inter-

city. They are different from the competitive sports people, apparently. These are "Type A people". This is a category created by heart doctors, and it covers people whose cast of mind makes them particularly vulnerable to heart trouble. Such people are aggressive and driven by deadlines. They seek the thrill of victory. Type T people approach life in another way. T-positive types control their level of risk, but T-negative types are self-destructive, and include drug users. As for these Type A and Type T people, Farley says he suspects there isn't much cross-over between the two. Oh really? What about grand prix drivers? What about three-day eventers and steeplechase riders?

● I hear that David Brown, the former quick bowler for England and Warwickshire, is now a name to conjure with in greyhound racing circles. He farms and also breeds racing dogs. One of the dogs in his latest litter recently had an accident, and needed to have a toe amputated. The dog has recovered well, and his racing name has been registered with the National Greyhound Racing Club. The name? Titmus.

A Corinthian spirit

This column does not care for snobbery, but cares a great deal for quixotry. Amateurism was, historically, a device for keeping the working classes out of one's favourite sporting pursuit. But Corinthian-Casuals football club has followed the path of amateurism for so long, flying in the face of all reason, that one can do nothing but admire. This year, the club is celebrating a jubilee: it

was in 1939 that the two major amateur football clubs, the Corinthians and the Casuals, joined forces, to sink or swim together. Mostly they have sunk, but that is not the point. "We maintain the old Corinthian spirit of fair play, amateurism and enjoyment of the game," their player-manager, Steve Bangs, insists. They are about to set off on their jubilee tour, travelling to Scotland to play Queen's Park, a team from IBM, of all things, and, naturally, Hamilton Academical. I wish them luck on their tour, and hope they will tear the Spartan League apart next season.

Suffering Skydomes

The Toronto SkyDome remains a favourite place for this column. Hot on the heels of the unforgettable did-the-roof-move-for-you-honey incident comes the information that the famous moveable roof of this enormous stadium has got stuck. The southern shell of the four-piece arrangement is jammed in the closed position. A fire destroyed the machinery that operates it. Spokeschaps at the stadium are expressing only relief. When the roof is closed, people complain that it should be open; when it is open they want it shut. "Now we are pleasing everybody," they said. As for the Toronto Blue Jays, the local baseball team, there is no doubt about what they prefer. When the roof was operating properly, their record under a closed roof was 21 wins and 13 defeats; when the roof was open, they had five wins and nine losses. They expect to have the roof back and moving by Tuesday.

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# Waddle is very much at home abroad

Chris Waddle, formerly with Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur and now with Olympique Marseilles in the French league, talks to Jean-Marie Descamps, of the magazine *France Football*, of the pressures of being an England footballer.

**How did you find the World Cup?**  
It was difficult for attackers because, on the whole, the teams were very defensive.

**Was it particularly difficult for you?**

I had some highs and some lows. The French would not recognise the Waddle of Marseilles.

I know. This was because the England team's style of play is completely different. Me, I was the same. But the English play long balls and use zonal marking. The French, they play football. The British style does not suit you? I prefer to play as at Marseilles. It is less physical and more technical and corresponds to my qualities. You were not given a very big role to play in Italy...

because I had to play deeper and that is not my style. Against Belgium in the second phase, I was a little more free and I was very happy.

**Why this freedom?**

It was Bobby Robson who asked me to move about in this way. I was less restrained. There were fewer problems.

**Why did you take so few risks?**

Yes, perhaps. Theoretically, I was able to do what I wanted, but in our system of play it was difficult to take chances. At Marseilles I do not have to defend, I am free.

**Do you prefer playing for Marseilles rather than for England?**

I like to play for England. It is a great honour every time. But, tactically, the system used by Marseilles suits me better. When you play in a team where there are players such as Mouton, Amoros, Francescoli and the others, all, technically, among the best in the world, it is fantastic. In France, one does not hit long balls up field. It is a style of football that has advantages for players like me or like Barnes.

**Will Chris Waddle find himself**



## COMMENT

CHRIS WADDLE

again in the French championship?

At Marseilles, no problem.

**You talk of a defensive World Cup. Must we modify the tactics or the rules to return to an attacking game?**

Certainly, one hopes that tactics will evolve. But I think that the rules must also change. If one did away with the offside rule, that football would be more open. In the national championships — okay. But at the level of a tournament like the World Cup, no one wants to lose and everyone adopts defensive tactics. One rarely sees more than a few shots from a distance. Inevitably, the number of goals has diminished because on the pitch it is easier to destroy than to create.

**Does the new offside rule seem to go in the right direction?**

I don't know. I am worried that there will still be problems. The linesmen have to pay more attention and decisions will probably be discussed more.

**The England team reached the semi-finals but was not always convincing...**

Indeed, we did not play as well as we could have done. In the first round, we did not match the standards set by West Germany, Italy or Belgium. But we finished very strongly. We demonstrated the present potential of English football.

**Which match was the most difficult?**

The one against Cameroon. It was physically very hard because we had little of the ball.

**And the best match?**

The semi-final against West Ger-

many and the match against Belgium.

**You said that England wanted to erase their failure of the European Championship. Did this happen?**

Yes. We perhaps did not play as well as we hoped, but to be semi-finalists is an achievement. And we failed only in those two matches against the Republic of Ireland and the Cameroon.

**England had their luck, all the same.**

Yes, plenty of luck. But we were unlucky not to go all the way in the World Cup. Exactly like Marseilles in the European Cup.

**British football has been described in the past as archaic. Is it the quality of the players that has changed the tactics?**

No, not at all. We have our own understanding of the game; it is not perhaps liked by everyone, but it gets results.

**Why are England disliked?**

Because of the bad publicity surrounding the hooligans. The whole world thinks that our supporters are bad, but one saw in Italy that this was not true. There are now hooligans everywhere. West Germany has some hooli-

gans, and The Netherlands has its hooligans. I would like to say that the day of the incident between West Germans and Yugoslavians there were no Englishmen in Milan.

**But you cannot excuse the English hooligans.**

Never, during this World Cup, did you see the English alone breaking things or fighting with the police. Each time there were other hooligans, Italians, German, Dutch, who came to confront them. Today ours have such a reputation that they are provoked everywhere.

**The English press has been very harsh with you.**

Before the start of the tournament, they did not like the team, nor its way of playing or its composition. Now they heap praise upon us. Is it not similar everywhere? But certain English journalists will write anything. Result: the majority of the players do not talk to them.

**Is this true in your case?**

Yes, with some of the journalists. A few, in my opinion, did not wait for our success in the World Cup.

How do you expect me to collaborate with them?

**Does this represent your view of most journalists?**

Nearly all, because nearly all were against us.

**Even the more serious, like The Times, The Independent or The Guardian?**

Yes. It was not so much those such as The Times but seven or eight of the others, perhaps more, did work against us.

**Is it very different to what happens in France?**

Yes, the French press at least tries to make constructive criticism. Some of the things that the English write my little girl would be able to write.

**Certain players nevertheless have exclusive contracts.**

This is true. I have a contract with The Sun.

**How does the team react to all these attacks?**

It has unified us. This has made us mentally stronger. But I believe that something has not been right for a long time between the English press and us.

## RUGBY UNION

### Hull given a chance against Argentina after nervous wait

From DAVID HANDS IN BUENOS AIRES

ENGLAND will spend an anxious weekend here, partly because they are keen to beat the Buenos Aires selection they play today at Vélez Sarsfield, the stadium where a week ago they lost the opening match of their Argentine tour to Banco Nación, and partly to see how their injury problems are resolved.

An x-ray examination of Simon Hodgkinson's wrist indicated no break and the full back is hopeful that he will be able to resume normal service early next week. However, David Pears, the stand-off half, has a tender calf muscle as a legacy of Wednesday's game against Tucumán and the management remains in close contact with Twickenham in case a replacement should be required.

It now appears unlikely that Rob Andrew would be able to get time from work to assist the party. Jonathan Callard, the Bath full back is among the possibilities. In the meantime Pears remains in today's XV but as full back where he has

played very little rugby at senior level, and Paul Hull becomes the focus of attention as he plays his first match on the tour at stand-off.

Hull, aged 22, has had a nervous fortnight awaiting his debut and has seen as clearly as anyone the need to develop the back play more than has been the case so far. He has a reputation as a runner of the ball though Will Carling, the captain, has been impressed with his kicking in training: a judicious mixture of the two is required today against a selection including none of the Argentine national squad, but two of the Banco forwards, Rodolfo Etcheberry and Pablo Di Nisio, successful against England last week.

Carling admits that, in other circumstances, the prospective international XV might have been aired today, but that is clearly not the case. However, another good match by Jason Leonard at loose-head prop and Dean Ryan as flanker could well earn them first caps in a week's time.

Leonard was outstanding against Tucumán and Ryan held his own in some robust exchanges.

Graham Childs will be the only member of the party not to have played after today. Childs, a centre, says he is happy just to be here. Even so, he would welcome the chance to show his pace, but the need to establish the best midfield, combined with Carling's illness in midweek, from which he has now fully recovered have taken precedence.

"We wanted to give Gavin Thompson a chance alongside Will so that we can look at the combination," Jeff Cooke, the manager said, but that will work only if Hull is on top of his game.

**BUENOS AIRES SELECTION:** G. Anguita, G. Jorge, H. Garcia Simon, E. Latorre, S. Escobar, L. Artale, A. Zimoni (captain), I. Latorre, A. Cibul, H. Beldone, A. Villalonga, G. Llerena, H. Etcheberry, E. Escobar, P. Di Nisio.  
**ENGLAND XV:** G. Pears (stand-off), S. Hodgkinson (captain), J. Callard, J. Leonard, V. Uggas (prop), D. Ryan (flanker), P. Widdowson (hooker), G. Egeron (scrum), R. Andrew (prop), J. Callard (flanker).

### In prone position for a tilt at the target

MARC ASPLAND



On the double: cadets in action during the public schools rifle shooting competition at Bisley's centenary meeting yesterday.

### Aiming for gold at Bisley

By REX BELAMY

OUR golf professional has forgotten to advocate shooting (the firearms variety). Ursula Powell says that after a fortnight at Bisley in July her golf improves so much that, come August or September, her handicap is reduced. She puts it down to concentration: that demanded on the range rubs off on the course.

John Powell, her husband, was the 1967 Queen's Prize winner and is now a gunsmith at Reigate. The modern match rifle, he suggests, is like a sophisticated sniping rifle. "We're hitting the equivalent of a man's chest at 1,200 yards — and we're disappointed if we miss."

"Let's say a dinner plate," interjects John Hissey, a retired insurance broker, who has been shooting at Bisley since 1945. Shooters are tough about even oblique reminders of the incurable effect of shooting for real. It is a coincidence, rather than a consequence, that the immediate environment is renowned for cemeteries.

It is estimated that, after angling, shooting is Britain's second most popular participant sport. "It isn't the rich man's sport a lot of people think it is," Powell says. Potential newcomers can join a club and borrow all they need. After that they can get a firearms certificate and invest about £250 in second-hand equipment or about £1,500 in a new rifle, "spotting" telescope and stand, and ear muffs.

Bisley's resident expert in all this is Roger Millard, who manages the on-site gunsmiths, Fulton's. In the workshop ("the engine room") are five special centenary rifles, a limited edition selling at £1,400 each. "We do a good target rifle for just under £1,000," Millard says.

Out front, in the shop, is a jocular notice reading "Rifle shooters get a bang out of life". They certainly do. The echoing gunfire at Bisley is somewhat at odds with the lazy, bazy heat of bright summer days on a vast, open expanse of beflagged, heathery common and roadways.

At the moment, the scene is busy with tents, caravans, improvised clothes lines, snack bars, and ice-cream vans. Busy, too, with shooters: many in uniform, others in whatever makes sense and feels comfortable. We are in the midst of Bisley's most important fortnight of the year, its culmination the award of the Queen's Prize.

Actually, prizes: £250 (unchanged since the original 1860 meeting on Wimbledon Common); the National Rifle Association's gold medal and gold badge; and a signed, framed portrait of the Queen. Moreover, while the band plays *See The Conquering Hero Comes*, the winner is carried round the camp in a sedan chair, stopping for a drink at every club.

The difference, this year, is that Bisley is celebrating its centenary. Queen Victoria fired the first shot (by remote control via a silken cord) at Wimbledon in 1860, 17 years before the first tennis championships. Suburban development, plus a need for expansion because of the increasing range of firearms, induced the NRA to move across Surrey to Bisley, in 1890.

The heavily up-market sponsors of this centenary event include Land Rover Ltd, two investment companies (Globe Investments and Save and Prosper), two banks (Barclays and Coutts), and Fairfield, "specialist caterers to independent schools". The money goes to the sport as

a whole — improving ranges and other facilities, and supporting overseas teams — rather than to prize-winners.

Ronnie Constant, commercial manager of the NRA, hopes to secure continuing sponsorship and to develop out-of-season use of the camp's ranges and accommodation. "The potential is enormous," he says, "but I would not do anything that would detract from the tradition of Bisley and the sport in general — anything that would detract from the shooting, which is what it's all about."

Only one woman has won the Queen's Prize: Marjorie Foster, from the Women's Legion of Motor Drivers, in 1930. But inside the camouflage uniforms at Bisley are many sharp-eyed young women from the cadet corp of co-educational schools. Yes, shooting is for both sexes and, for that matter, almost every segment of society. "Only at Bisley," Hissey says, "would you find a field marshal chatting to a private without either knowing the others rank."

Well, that happens in golf, too, but the "only" is a permissible exaggeration. Shooting does attract a cross-section of society and has a marked air of camaraderie and mutual aid based on a common enthusiasm.

These sport's disciplined military routes helped to explain why it remains genteel. Mostly, anyway. Competitors on the match rifle range are allowed a preliminary free shot, into the stop butt rather than the target, to "foul" the barrel — to warm it up, so to speak, for subsequent demands on pin-point precision. This free shot is preceded by a range officer's formal announcement: "Gentlemen, you may now blow off."

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

### Spartans court success

By RICHARD WETHERELL

THE semi-finalists in the Coca-Cola League play-offs (formerly the NDMAs) were decided last weekend. Glasgow Lions beat the Bournemouth Bobcat 33-0 and will meet the Manchester Spartans, who overcame the Leeds Cougars 45-36. The other semi-final will be between the Birmingham Bulls and the Northants Storm.

Terry Smith, who coaches the Spartans, went to court two days before the game against the Cougars, and not only gained a reprieve from a suspension handed out by a disciplinary committee, but also won the right to play at home, overturning another NDMAs decision.

On the field, the Spartans relied on their quarterback, Hazen Choates, running back, Paul Bailey, and wide receiver, Allan Brown, to guide them through.

## FISHING

By CONRAD VOSS BARK

### Wiltshire water fears

FISHERMEN on the Wylde in Wiltshire are concerned about new borehole work by Wessex Water in the Cotford area, near Heytesbury, which is taking place in an effort to meet growing industrial and domestic demand for water.

The Wylde, a famous trout stream, is one of 40 rivers in England and Wales where water levels have diminished dramatically during periods of drought, because underground springs that feed them have been tapped by water companies to augment the public supply.

The National Rivers Authority says many of the problems have been caused by legal boreholes licensed during the 1960s, under the 1963 Water Resources Act, which gave existing users the right to a licence, whether or not it was detrimental to river flows.

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# CORAL



The Times reports on the second round of the 119th Open Championship at St Andrews

## A Scot trying in the wilderness

By PATRICIA DAVIES

GOLF is the only game in town in St Andrews at all times, not just during the Open, so Sam Torrance has an awesome burden to bear over the next two days.

The affable man from Largs is the Great Scottish Hope after a round of 70, two under par, yesterday took him to a total of six under, the best start he has had in the 19 championships he has played in.

It is too early to suggest that Torrance will be the first native-born Scot to win the title at St Andrews since Jock Hutchison, by then a naturalised American, in 1921.

Torrance is, after all, only 51st on the Volvo Order of Merit and has not won a tournament since the Italian Open in 1987. His best finish in the Open is fifth, in 1981, but he has started playing his best golf for some time, having obeyed his father's forceful instructions to work harder.

He had hopes of a really low score yesterday morning until the wind changed. "I don't know what the hell I've done wrong," he said. "We played the front nine into the wind and the back nine into the wind. It switched round completely and I had to work like mad on the way home."

Torrance had birdie chances at the 1st and 2nd but dropped a shot when he took three putts at the second. The crowd sagged a little but perked up when he had four birdies in a row to share the lead briefly with Payne Stewart, on seven under par.

Torrance had three at the 3rd and 4th to go to five under. He sank his five-foot putt at the latter seconds after Jamie Spence, still unknown and unremarked, on the 14th, sharing the green with the 4th, moved to five under with a birdie of his own. The difference in their receptions was audible.

Torrance hit a wedge to four feet for a birdie four at the 5th, undisturbed by Jack Nicklaus prowling about the 13th, which shares the double green, and the Scot then sank a six-footer at the 6th, to share the lead with Stewart, who was dropping a shot, in full view of Torrance, on the adjoining 12th.

Scotland sighed when Torrance skied his drive at the 7th and dropped a shot. He then had to set about the really hard work of coming home in 36, level par, and managed it by leaning heavily on his long putter, sometimes literally as well as figuratively.

At the 10th, where he was

## THE OPEN



ST ANDREWS

only feet short of the green with his drive, his chip ran 30 feet past, down a slope, but Torrance got down in two putts. As he stood on the 12th tee, he got the thumbs up from Mark James, who was perambulating down the 7th, but such moral support was no use to Torrance when he found his drive in a huge divot.

His three-iron hack out ran over the green and he took an extra hack for revenge, but saved his par with two putts from some 60 feet. He dropped a shot at the 13th but the putting magic did not desert him altogether and twice more he got down in two from the 45-to-50-foot range.

However, his most notable saving putt was at the 14th, where he holed a 20-footer for his par five after driving into a little pot bunker, one of The Beardies.

"I should have gone further left off the tee," Torrance said, "but they've built a big stand which is on the line I reckon you need to take, to be safe, into the wind. Next time I'll hit it over their heads." The stand, he calculated, was 220 yards away, so perhaps the spectators in the top row should be issued with hard hats.

Yet another delay and distraction came when he was about to putt on the 17th green. Suddenly, all eyes were on the not insubstantial figure of Chris Patton, the United States amateur champion, who had driven into the Swilcan Burn at the first and was in the process of lowering his 300-odd-lb bulk into socks.

Everyone watched mesmerised as he took a swipe and landed the ball on the green to huge acclamation. Even Bob Charles, one of Patton's partners, smiled.

Torrance took two putts for his par at the 18th hole, then did his own bit of grandstanding at the 18th, holing from 18 feet for a birdie three. There was a sizeable cheer, even though the stand was three-quarters empty, but if he does the same on Sunday, and it matters, Jock Hutchison himself will hear the roar.



A master's touch: Palmer shows his elation as his putt from the Valley of Sin finishes within inches of the hole

## Palmer extends last hurrah

By MEL WEBB

ARNOLD Palmer had an unhappy Open at Royal Troon last year. He shot 81 and 82, missed the cut by a distance and was hugely embarrassed. He said earlier this week that the humiliation he felt after that experience meant that this would be his last Open, and after a 73 on Thursday, his second round yesterday might have been the last chance anybody would have of watching one of the greatest players in the world's greatest golf tournament.

If we thought he would leave us without a final hurrah, we should all have known better. Because, although at the age of 60 his powers on the course have naturally declined, his huge pride of performance remains unbroken by the passage of time. The result was a 71, one under par. It was a good round by anybody's standards, and there are plenty of players of less

than half Palmer's age who would have been satisfied with it. But for a man who might have become bogged down in the drama of it all, it was remarkable.

Palmer's performance was there. That great flowing elegance of a swing, the weather-beaten features betraying every shade of emotion, that familiar, slightly knock-kneed putting style. In those respects at least he was the same man who first played in the Open Championship 30 years ago this year, on this very course, and the same man who won it in 1961 and 1963.

And how he loves the smell of the grass and the roar of the crowd. Wherever he trod there was applause and more applause, and he milked the last drop. Like an old-style vaudeville, not a trick was missed. What of Arnie's Army? Well, their numbers are a little depleted these days — no more

than a couple of regiments. But there are still plenty of foot soldiers out there who are still prepared to march their hearts out to the beat of the silver-haired general at their head.

Palmer did not let his people down. He got them in the right mood with a ten-foot putt for a birdie at the 1st, but had them groaning when he missed one from 18 inches to drop a shot at the 3rd. Somehow, the pitch to two feet by Gary Player, his old friend and rival, who on another day would have been the star turn himself, was no more than incidental to the main action.

On the 6th he was nearly despatched by a wayward drive from the opposite direction. Palmer ducked, whirled and sent an aggrieved glare down to the 13th tee, where Danny Milojovic, an embarrassed Canadian, waved his apologies. If the Army could have got at him he might have been a dismembered Canadian.

On the short 8th he got a birdie from ten feet, and for the second time in his round immediately gave the shot back when he three-putted the next. His third and final birdie of the day came on the 15th with another ten-foot putt. He played the Road hole beautifully, and after putting his second shot into the Valley of Sin on the last, putted up to a couple of inches to complete 36 holes on 144, level par.

The Army loved it, the other ranks in the stand adored it. Their hero had done himself proud, and they were beside themselves. They did not want him to leave, and he did not want to go.

WEATHER: Today Warm and dry, sunny spells, wind light and variable. Max 17-20C (63-68F). Tomorrow: Dry, sunny periods, light winds. TELEVISION: Today: BBC1 12.30-1.30pm, BBC2 1.30-2.30pm and 10.15-11.30pm, ITV 1.30-2.30pm and 10.15-11.30pm, Eurosport 12.30-2pm and 10.15-11.30pm, ESPN 12.30-2pm and 10.15-11.30pm, Eurosport 12.30-2pm and 10.15-11.30pm, ESPN 12.30-2pm and 10.15-11.30pm.

## Nicklaus marvels as Olazábal peppers the flags

By JOHN HENNESSY

AFTER two rounds of close companionship Jack Nicklaus, who speaks with authority on any golfing subject, expressed admiration yesterday for the talents of José María Olazábal. The young Spaniard played the Old course in 67 strokes, five under par, and with a 36-hole total of 138, forced his way into serious consideration for the Open title.

Nicklaus did not do too badly himself for a man of 50. He scored 70 to stand three under par on 141. Doughty competitor that he still is, he does not rule out his hopes of the title. "Two good rounds," he said afterwards, "and I have a good chance of the championship. That's what you've got to believe."

He was particularly impressed, as any observer had to be, with the iron play of Olazábal, who has not yet missed a green. "He's knocked the flag stick down for two days," Nicklaus said, "and he's unlikely not to have an even better score. He was terrific."

Unfortunately, Olazábal's touch on the greens comes and goes, and for the most part, as Nicklaus has indicated, it has gone. He had taken 37 putts on Thursday in a round of 71. Yesterday's total, 32, was more like the genuine article. A compatriot, using the Spanish abbreviation for José-María, suggested: "The old man should teach China how to putt."

Their playing companions David Frost, drifted into comparative insignificance, as the "old man" and the young pretender measured themselves

against each other. They had started level, at one under par, and after various swings and roundabouts, were locked together on four under 15 holes later. Olazábal had been the first to strike, with wedge and eight-iron close to the 3rd and 7th holes respectively.

Now Nicklaus observed the Old course maxim that you must make your score round the loop at the far end of the course. He had five successive threes from the 8th, three of them for birdies.

The conditions by now offered an almost perfect, uncanny calm and Nicklaus hit short irons to 12 feet at the 10th and six feet at the 11th. His wedge into the 9th was more of his putter but it did not betray him from 25 feet.

Olazábal, aged 24, who was later to express himself "very impatient to win a major title," went ahead again with a glorious five-iron at the 16th and secured a model four at the intimidating Road hole.

Nicklaus, however, who had the day before proclaimed the Old course's 17th the hardest par four in the world, provided corroborative evidence. He hooked off the tee when he should have faded, as he later admitted, and a lie in the rough gave him no chance of getting up in two.

Olazábal left nothing to chance at the 18th. It was playing longer yesterday against the wind and required, this time, a genuine pitch rather than Thursday's chip and run. Olazábal dropped the ball four feet from the hole.

## Stadler left to rue early mistakes

CRAIG Stadler, embarrassed by an 82 on Thursday, improved on 80 yesterday (Mel Webb writes). His 71 put him the clubhouse with a score of 153, nine over par, and he will be winging his way back to San Diego a wiser man.

Stadler, who only a few weeks ago won the Scandinavian Enterprise Open after a final round of 62, made few excuses for his fall from grace.

"I do have an in-growing toenail, which has turned septic — but it's not that septic," a philosophical Stadler said.

Joining Stadler in the early departure club is one of his playing partners, Roger Davis, of Australia. Davis, many people's favourites for the Open, also had an 82 in the first round, and, like Stadler, improved to 71 yesterday. Davis's first round was the result of probably the worst day he has ever had on the greens. He three-putted five times, and took a ghastly 46 putts.

The third member of the

group, Davis Love III, was a stunning success compared with his two companions. He had rounds of 73 and 75 — but four over par was still nowhere near good enough for his three-ball was a must for the connoisseur of black comedy. Few lingered for long.

Of the four amateurs in the field, the best performance by far was that of Tony Nash, of Carlton Bay.

He added a level-par 72 to his first round of 73, while Rolf Munz, of The Netherlands, was a little overawed by the company he found himself in.

Munz, the Amateur champion, was playing in a group which also included Arnold Palmer and Gary Player. He had a 74 yesterday, and finished on 152, eight over par.

Chris Patton, who at 22 stone is certainly the heaviest champion in the history of the US Amateur championship, finished himself pretty well, and finished a firm favourite of the crowd, on 149, five over par.

## SECOND ROUND SCORES

<b>69 and five unless stated</b> P Stewart (US), 68, 68 J Spence, 72, 65 N Price (Zim), 70, 67 <b>138</b> J Mudd (US), 72, 66 J-M Olazábal (Sp), 71, 67 P Jacobsen (US), 68, 70 S Torrance, 68, 70 S Pate (US), 70, 68 A Sorenson (Den), 70, 68 <b>139</b> F Nobilo (NZ), 72, 67 V Fernandez (Arg), 72, 67 S Jones (US), 72, 67 M O'Meara (US), 70, 69 V Singh (Fiji), 70, 69 <b>140</b> J Rivera (Sp), 70, 70 J Rutledge (Can), 71, 69 C Pavin (US), 71, 69 H Irwin (US), 72, 68 M Poxon, 68, 72 D Ray, 71, 69 J Baker-Finch (Aus), 68, 72 W Laidlaw (Sp), 70, 72 C O'Connor Jr, 68, 72 E Romero (Arg), 69, 71 <b>141</b> J Nicklaus (US), 71, 70 R Rafferty, 70, 71 P Fowler (Aus), 73, 68 Hammond (US), 71, 71 M Mackenzie, 70, 71 P Azinger (US), 73, 68 M Roe, 71, 70 A Saavedra (Arg), 72, 69 F Couples (US), 71, 70 <b>142</b> R Chapman, 72, 70 M James, 73, 69 J Sluman (US), 72, 70	<b>143</b> D Milojovic (Can), 69, 74 M Clayton (Aus), 72, 71 R Floyd (US), 72, 71 B Leach (US), 71, 69 L Mize (US), 71, 72 B Crenshaw (US), 74, 69 K Ghera, 74, 68 D Graham (Aus), 72, 71 M McCumber (US), 68, 74 P Broadhurst, 74, 69 G Powers (US), 74, 69 D Cooper, 71, 72 D Pockley (US), 70, 73 <b>144</b> W Westner (SA), 72, 72 M Harwood (Aus), 72, 72 A Palmer (US), 73, 71 J Morgan, 74, 70 J Woodroffe (US), 73, 71 T Kite (US), 71, 73 <b>145</b> D Frost (SA), 72, 73 C Moody, 71, 74 S Elkington (Aus), 74, 71 L Wadkins (US), 72, 73 S Bennett, 74, 71 W Glasdon (US), 72, 73 P Hall, 74, 71 R Estes (US), 73, 72 P Mayo, 73, 72 A Nash, 73, 72 A Oldcorn, 74, 71 L Wadkins (US), 71, 74 S Ballesteros (Sp), 71, 74 H Clark, 73, 72 T Watson (US), 72, 73 <b>146</b> F Hedblom (Swe), 75, 71 M Martin (Sp), 74, 72 W Player (SA), 76, 70 R Drummond, 75, 71 M Calavechche (US), 71, 76	<b>147</b> J Gervais (Sp), 78, 69 D Smyth, 73, 74 J Jackson (US), 77, 70 M Ozaki (Japan), 72, 75 P Senior (Aus), 72, 75 D Duman, 73, 74 P Harrison, 72, 75 T Walkup (US), 73, 74 <b>148</b> R Bonall, 78, 70 K Green (US), 73, 75 J Hawkes (SA), 75, 73 D Love III (US), 75, 73 S Ogilvie (Aus), 78, 70 K Trimble (Aus), 73, 73 B Jones (Aus), 72, 75 D Jones, 74, 74 D A Russell, 75, 73 <b>149</b> Y Kuramoto (Japan), 77, 72 G Levenson (SA), 75, 74 G Moore (US), 75, 75 C Patton (US), 74, 75 <b>150</b> K Waters, 78, 74 <b>151</b> C Beck (US), 75, 75 P Head, 75, 76 W Charles (NZ), 76, 75 <b>152</b> G Farr, 82, 70 R Muntz (Neth), 78, 74 P Way, 75, 77 <b>153</b> R Gonzalez (Arg), 75, 78 R Davis (Aus), 82, 71 C Stadler (US), 82, 71 P Lyons, 77, 78 * denotes amateur
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## COMPLETE FIRST ROUND SCORES

<b>69 and five unless stated</b> 69: G Norman (Aus), M Allen (US) 69: M Poxon, C O'Connor Jr, J Baker-Finch (Aus), I Woodsman, P Stewart (US), P Jacobsen (US), S Torrance 69: E Romero (Arg), G Turner (NZ), L Trevino (US), D Mayovic (Can), M McCumber (US) 70: S Pate (US), A Sorenson (Den), D Pockley (US), M Hubert (US), N Price (Zim), M O'Meara (US), V Singh (Fiji), M Reid (US), T Simpson (US), R Gomez (US), J Rivera (Sp), R Rafferty, M Mackenzie, D Hammond (US) 71: D Ray, L Wadkins (US), N Ozaki (Japan), M Roe, S Ballesteros (Sp), M Calavechche (US), F Couples (US), T Kite (US), S McCallister (US), A North (US), E Darcy, S Poch (US), J Bard (SA), B	Norton (US), C Moody, J Rutledge (Can), J Nicklaus (US), J-M Olazábal (Sp), L Mize (US), C Pavin (US), 72, 73 72: D Cooper, P Harrison, H Irwin (US), J M Calavechche (Sp), B Jones (Aus), S Jones (US), T Watson (US), A Lyle, C Montgomerie, P Mitchell, P Curry, K Krametz (Swe), J Spence, D Frost (SA), J Mudd (US), W Westner (SA), M Clayton (Aus), M Harwood (Aus), G Player (SA), R Floyd (US), F Nobilo (NZ), J Sluman (US), R Chapman, P Senior (Aus), M Ozaki (Japan), D Graham (Aus), V Fernandez (Arg), S Glasdon (US), V Canipe (US), A Saavedra (Arg) 73: J Woodland (Aus), T Walkup (US), H Clark, S Glen (Aus), S Simpson (US), W Grady (Aus), R Tway (US), J Aoki (Japan), R Hartmann (US), J Curcio (Sp), P Baker, B Barnes, A Hare, A Palmer (US), D Smyth, K Green (US), P Fowler (Aus), D Love (US), M James, P Azinger (US), D Duman, P Mayo, A Nash, D Estes (US)	74: D Jones, A Oldcorn, C Patton (US), P Watson, M McNulty (Zim), A Murray, J Arnold III (US), C Sorenson (US), J Davis (Sp), K Knox (US), D Williams, G Langer (Aus), S Elkington (Aus), M Martin (Sp), B Crenshaw (US), D Falcetti, O Moore (Aus), S Bennett, P Broadhurst, P Hall, J Morgan, G Powers (US) 75: D A Russell, J Berardi (Arg), P Hedblom (Swe), R Gonzalez (Arg), J Hawkes (SA), P Way, P Head, K Trimble (Aus), G Levenson (SA), R Drummond 76: R Charles (NZ), M Moutland, K Waters, C Beck (US), W Player (SA) 77: P Lyons, G Brand Jr, R Walk, J Huston (US), Kuramoto (Japan) 78: P Archibald (Aus), Y Hagawa (Japan), J Higgins, J Gervais (Sp), R Bonall, R Muntz (Neth), S Ogilvie (Aus) 82: G Farr, C Stadler (US), R Davis (Aus)
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Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	TOTAL
Yards	370	411	371	483	564	418	372	178	356	343	172	316	425	567	413	382	481	364	6,933
Par	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	72
J Spence	3	4	4	4	6	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	3	65
J Mudd	3	3	4	4	4	4	2	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	3	3	3	68
J-M Olazábal	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	67
F Nobilo	3	4	4	4	5	4	3	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	4	5	3	3	67
V Fernandez	3	4	4	4	4	4	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	4	5	4	3	67
N Price	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	67
A Sorenson	4	3	4	4	3	5	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	68
P Stewart	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	2	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	68
S Pate	4	4	5	3	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	5	4	5	3	4	68
S Torrance	4	5	3	3	4	3	5	3	4	4	3	4	5	5	4	4	4	3	70
P Jacobsen	5	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	70

## Stewart rises above cut of his cloth

WITH scores like his second-round 68, yesterday's Payne Stewart, of the United States, likes to be known for the quality of his play (Reuter reports).

But anyone stumbling across Stewart for the first time this week might have thought he had wandered into a fancy dress party by mistake.

Stewart has a \$600,000, three-year deal with the National Football League, to wear the colours of their uniforms. Yesterday, it was the turn of the Green Bay Packers, which

meant an eye-catching concoction of lime green and custard, incorporating matching plus-tops and cap.

Stewart, who fortunately has a sense of humour, does not mind the attention but prefers to dwell on the less fashionable topic of whether he can lift the title tomorrow.

"I tried to be very patient and I only missed one green all day," he said after posting an eight-under-par total of 136 to grab the lead midway through the second round.

Stewart has a \$600,000, three-year deal with the National Football League, to wear the colours of their uniforms. Yesterday, it was the turn of the Green Bay Packers, which

"I'm not going to sit here and say I'm going to win the tournament. But I feel I'm capable of winning it. I feel very confident about my game."

All this has failed to divert the local media from more important matters. Why was Stewart not wearing the colours of British football clubs?

"Er, they don't pay quite as much," he replied. The New England Patriots will be in action on Saturday.

## White is key to Cheshire's success

By BOB RODNEY

CARLA White, aged 26, who works in the Vicar's Cross club in Cheshire, was the heroine of Cheshire at the East Devon club, Budleigh Salterton, yesterday, when she gave them the singles win that ensured they would retain their English women's county title.

Cheshire have made surprisingly hard work of their four seasons against a depleted Glamorgan side, coming out with a one-point advantage.

In the singles, Glamorgan, theoretically the weakest side in the contest, fought so well that

each of the top three matches were halved.

White had gone one down to Nicola Stroud at the 10th, where she lost a ball off the tee, but hit back instantly to win the 11th and went one up when Stroud three-putted the 13th. A birdie by White gave her the 14th, and she slipped to four feet and sank the putt at the 16th, for a three and two victory.

Meanwhile Elaine Ratcliffe, aged 17, was two up with two to play in her match, and Cheshire at last held an unassailable lead

and were certain to retain their title.

RESULTS: Cheshire to Glamorgan, 5-4. Foursums: D Cheshire and A Parnett to J Marley and G Williams, 5 and 4; J Ford and S Mountford lost to R Paskin and S Robinson, 1 hole; K Bradley and V Mackenzie lost to K Tabber and C White, 2 and 1. Singles: Parnett halved with Morley; Cheshire halved with Robinson; Foster halved with Tabber; Mountford to E Wilson, 1 hole; N Stroud lost to C White, 3 and 2; J Baker halved with Ratcliffe.

Hampshire v Northamptonshire: Foursums: C Cummins and C Quinn to J Berry and L Broughton, 5 and 4; J L. McComb and C Suring to J Collingham and G Palmer, 4 and 4; A. McDonald and H Wheeler to L Irvine and K Whithead, 2 and 1.

## TITLEIST. FOR ELEVEN YEARS THE NUMBER ONE BALL AT THE OPEN.

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Which is why, for the eleventh year in succession, Titleist has

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\*Source: Sports Marketing Services/Dunlop Survey Company







Doug Sanders looks back at the chance of a lifetime he missed at St Andrews

# Two putts from the Open title

By BOB DRUM

(Former golf correspondent of the Pittsburgh Press)

ST ANDREWS may be renowned as the home of golf, but for Doug Sanders, it will always be remembered as the place where he missed the chance of a lifetime.

Twenty years ago, Sanders arrived at St Andrews as an outsider for the Open Championship. In 1966, he had finished second to Jack Nicklaus in the Open at Muirfield, but since then, injuries and fast living had taken their toll.

Nevertheless, in 1970, he reached the 72nd green with two putts for the title. His first effort finished short, leaving him with a three-foot downhill putt, still for the championship. He missed it, and went on to lose the play-off with Nicklaus by a stroke.

Sanders was recently asked if he ever thought about the putt that lost the Open. "I never stopped thinking about it, even after I lost the play-off," he said. "I replayed the shot mentally and never once missed."

Actually, I never should have had to make that putt," he said. "I pitched the ball to the 18th green that was the wrong shot. In the play-off, I had almost the identical shot and played a bump and knocked the ball four feet from the hole. That night, I slept well — I made out that I had birdied the hole the day before and won the Open."

"Every time the British Open from St Andrews is on television, I replay the putt for four days. I never miss it. But it's just as well. I may have had to change my lifestyle. Imagine me in a bowler hat and a tweed coat playing in tournaments. I would have been locked up."

Sanders had dived into the winner's circle with a splash. As an amateur, he beat all the professionals in the Canadian Open in 1956. As a professional, he had a distinguished career that featured



Sitting comfortably: Doug Sanders, who missed his chance to win the Open in 1970, at home in Houston, Texas

one of the worst-looking swings ever to appear on a golf course.

It was said that you could stand a couple of feet behind Sanders and not be hit by his backswing. His club did not go back more than hip-high.

But Sanders was oblivious of criticism about his golf game, or his personal life. "If

those guys loafed with me after dark, they not only could not play, they wouldn't show up," he said. "In fact, I have a helluva time myself."

Sanders had one habit that none of his peers could deny: he surrounded himself with beautiful women. He tried marriage a couple of times, but unlike his golf swing, matrimony did not

work until he met his present wife.

Jimmy Demaret was the first golfer to wear outlandish colours, but Sanders took the idea to extremes. His colours were loud and clear, and even his socks and shoes matched his outfits.

Sanders has his own US PGA Senior Tour tournament

in Houston and, this year, President Bush was a participant in the pro-am.

Wherever he is this week, Sanders will not regret his lifestyle and his days as a golfer. The over-the-hill golfer with a swing that is not taught by any teacher. But he can't help remembering that short putt that cost him enduring fame.

## Stag-night in cricket season is sacrilege

I was lucky at school with cricket coaches. For some reason, the Jesuits at Belvedere College in Dublin attracted the most famous players and former players you could name: Charlie Hallows from Lancashire, who once needed to score 232 against Sussex at Old Trafford in two days to complete 1,000 runs in May and got them; Sir Frank Worrell — need I say more? — Vic Cannings, who with Derek Shackleton formed one of the great opening attacks for Hampshire; and Cecil Pepper from the other end of the world who made fielding practice in the Easter rain in Ireland so much fun.

Over them all, however, the great Irish cricketer, Jimmy Boucher, stood like a colossus. Taker of 307 wickets for his country, he twice topped the first-class averages with fast-medium off breaks that would easily have given him a solid career for 20 years with an English county. In retirement, he coached. Cricket was his life and still is. Nothing could ever divert him from it.

One fine evening at our school ground just outside Dublin, Boucher had assembled a squad of aspirant youths, myself included. He had undertaken to coach us until we dropped or got it right. Some were in their late teens; others in their early twenties.

At one stage he looked around and enquired where one of our number was. "Oh, sir," came a reply, "it's his stag-night this evening. He's getting married on Saturday." Jimmy's eyes widened. He stopped short, silent, amazed. Eventually, he spluttered: "What? In the middle of the cricket season?" The offender's cricket career had at that moment reached a plateau from which in future years it never moved.

This memory came back last Saturday when, at about the time Lancashire and Worcestershire were tossing a coin at Lord's, I was at a friend's wedding. It is one thing, surely, getting married in mid-season. But on the day of the Benson and Hedges Cup final? Really!

I had originally thought of throwing the invitation away and saying it had never arrived; then I worried he might phone personally. I thought of feigning an illness. But medical history records no ailment which prevents attendance at weddings but permits a visit to Lord's. So I went and did my best to get my own back by

praising his wife excessively in my speech and drinking more than my share of champagne.

What would or should we sacrifice for sport? Where does it, or should it, come in the pecking order of social priorities and obligations? Pretty high, I think.

I am deeply suspicious of men who do not kick a football and go into pubs. They do not have to do it the whole time: say, as often as Luciano Pavarotti has done, a man whose real youthful dream was not Covent Garden Opera House but playing for Italy in the World Cup.

Would we ever go as far as the man in the famous golf cartoon: standing on the tee with three friends as a funeral cortege passes by. Our Hero is seen to raise his cap before playing his drive. "What a courteous and very respectful man you are," one of the companions says. To which there came the reply: "It's the least I can do. She was always a good wife to me."

Drake, according to reasonable legend, set the tone, remarking to his playing partners at Plymouth: "There is plenty of time to win this game, and to thrash the Spaniards, too."

The recent World Cup finals have by all verifiable accounts thrown the Irish up in a favourable light: a skilful team with much novelty value and popular supporters who seemed almost relieved to be seen crying in the streets and bars of Italy with a mixture of delight and sadness, and not a little unaccustomed pride. And oh, what sacrifices were made!

An Irish writer friend of mine, the Derry journalist, Neil McCafferty, has told me of a woman on her first trip abroad from deep rural Ireland to see relatives in Catholic-Irish Boston. No sooner had she landed there than she realised from the television coverage that Italy was the place to be. She upped and took herself to Rome for Ireland's last hurrah.

An Irish electrician abandoned his post at an American army base in Germany; a Kerryman came from Australia; and at Dublin Airport there was a beautiful scene when a man on the way to the finals handed his wife a will in which he had left her everything, including things she did not know he

HENRY KELLY

### YACHTING

## Old rivals shape up for rematch

By BARRY PICKTHALL

FOUR former Whitbread maxi heads a 63-strong fleet that sets out from Brighton this morning to compete in the inaugural race to Porto Sherry in Spain. Prime interest in this 1,000-mile event for the Brent Walker Cup is the race to the finish line, which will be the first time the Whitbread, and Britain's less than successful armed services entry, Saitouke British Defender.

Now in the capable hands of Harold Cudmore, this Martin Francis design which suffered a succession of breakages culminating in her dismasting during the last stage of the race across the Atlantic from Fort Lauderdale, has been completely revamped for this new challenge.

Renamed Brent Walker, the

PORTO Cervo, Italy — Mauro Pelaschier and his former Italian America's Cup crew, sailing aboard the Swan 46 Eucroia, led yesterday's shortened off-shore race from start to finish to strengthen their hold on the Rolex Swan world championship which ends here today (Barry Pickthall writes).

Only Roger Egli's 53ft Chacabuco, second yesterday, remains in contention after Kaurizlo Alberto's Swan 47 was penalised 20 per cent for cheating during Thursday's race when he finished second. Alberto and his crew were lucky not to have been disqualified, not only from the race but the series after being found guilty of moving their heavy anchor aft and removing

## Cox earns international call

By PETER AYKROYD

DAVID Cox, of Liverpool, the national No. 4, will represent Britain in the men's international team at the Goodwill Games in Seattle, which began yesterday. He joins Sarah Mercer, the British champion, who was picked for the women's international team in March.

Cox, aged 19, was in the England squad which won the Commonwealth Games. He was also reserve for Britain at the

European championships at Lausanne in May. Mercer, aged 16, captured the British title in March and took the individual title at the World Championships at Breda in May. She has recently switched clubs from Leatherhead to Park Olympic, Telford.

The competition consists of free exercises in team and individual events. The teams, of four world-class gymnasts, are from the world's leading nations, together with the two

international teams. The seven countries in the men's competition are the Soviet Union, China, Japan, Romania, East Germany, Hungary and the United States.

In the international teams, Cox will compete with Kalofer Hristov, of Bulgaria, Miguel Angel Rubio, of Spain, and Louis Lopez, of Mexico, while Mercer will perform with Milena Mavrodieva, of Bulgaria, Eva Rueda, of Spain, and Henrieta Onodi, of Hungary.

### GOODWILL GAMES

## Princess queries ethics

THE Princess Royal yesterday spoke of her concern for ethics in both the coaching and scientific research of international sport (John Goodbody writes).

The Princess said the code of conduct of the British Institute of Sports Coaches could "well reflect the value of sportsmanship" on subjects like drugs and violence.

The Princess, opening the annual world convention of the International Association for Physical Education in Higher

Education at Loughborough University, said that although she was not a scientist, she was concerned about the ethics of some research. She was not specific.

The Princess also wondered how much stress should be put on children. She said that too many schools were trying to outdo each other rather than teaching. But it was possible to have good results and a better sense of identity.

### FOOTBALL

## Palace chase Popescu

THE Crystal Palace chairman, Ron Noades, has confirmed that his club is on the verge of signing two Romanian World Cup players.

Palace were reported to have made a £3 million bid for the defender, Gheorghe Popescu, of Universitatea Craiova, and the forward, Gavril Balint, of Steaua Bucharest.

Noades said: "We have an interest in two Romanian play-

ers, but only one of the names that have been quoted is right." Palace have spent £450,000 on the Charlton Athletic defender, John Humphrey, and £410,000 on the Watford midfielder player, Lynn Hodges, this summer.

The Southampton forward, Rodney Wallace, has turned down his latest offer of a new contract and is set to hold talks with two un-named Italian first division clubs this weekend.

### WEEKEND FIXTURES

#### Today

#### CRICKET

Tour match: Leicestershire v Lancashire (Leicester)

Refuge Assurance county championship

11.0, 110 overs minimum

COLCHESTER: Essex v Lancashire

ABERDEEN: Glamorgan v

Worcestershire

CHILTERNHAM: Gloucestershire v

Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v

Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v

Sussex

GUILDFORD: Surrey v Kent

Other sport

Today

CRICKET

Leicestershire v Lancashire

Refuge Assurance League

20.40 overs

COLCHESTER: Essex v Lancashire

NEATH: Glamorgan v Somerset

CHILTERNHAM: Gloucestershire v

Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v

Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v

Sussex

GUILDFORD: Surrey v Kent

Other sport

Today

CRICKET

Leicestershire v Lancashire

Refuge Assurance League

20.40 overs

COLCHESTER: Essex v Lancashire

NEATH: Glamorgan v Somerset

CHILTERNHAM: Gloucestershire v

Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v

Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v

Sussex

GUILDFORD: Surrey v Kent

Other sport

Today

CRICKET

Leicestershire v Lancashire

Refuge Assurance League

20.40 overs

COLCHESTER: Essex v Lancashire

NEATH: Glamorgan v Somerset

CHILTERNHAM: Gloucestershire v

Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v

Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v

Sussex

GUILDFORD: Surrey v Kent

Other sport

Today

CRICKET

Leicestershire v Lancashire

Refuge Assurance League

20.40 overs

COLCHESTER: Essex v Lancashire

NEATH: Glamorgan v Somerset

CHILTERNHAM: Gloucestershire v

Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v

Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v

Sussex

GUILDFORD: Surrey v Kent

Other sport

Today

CRICKET

Leicestershire v Lancashire

Refuge Assurance League

20.40 overs

COLCHESTER: Essex v Lancashire

NEATH: Glamorgan v Somerset

CHILTERNHAM: Gloucestershire v

Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v

Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v

Sussex

GUILDFORD: Surrey v Kent

Other sport

Today

CRICKET

Leicestershire v Lancashire

Refuge Assurance League

20.40 overs

COLCHESTER: Essex v Lancashire

NEATH: Glamorgan v Somerset

CHILTERNHAM: Gloucestershire v

Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v

Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v

Sussex

GUILDFORD: Surrey v Kent

Other sport

Today

CRICKET

Leicestershire v Lancashire

Refuge Assurance League

20.40 overs

COLCHESTER: Essex v Lancashire

NEATH: Glamorgan v Somerset

CHILTERNHAM: Gloucestershire v

Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v

Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v

Sussex

GUILDFORD: Surrey v Kent

Other sport

Today

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Leicestershire v Lancashire

Refuge Assurance League

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NEATH: Glamorgan v Somerset

CHILTERNHAM: Gloucestershire v

Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v

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Sussex

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LEICESTER: Leicestershire v

Sussex

GUILDFORD: Surrey v Kent

Other sport

Today

CRICKET

Leicestershire v Lancashire

Refuge Assurance League

20.40 overs

COLCHESTER: Essex v Lancashire

NEATH: Glamorgan v Somerset

CHILTERNHAM: Gloucestershire v

Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v

Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v



## CYCLING

# LeMond to catch Italian in time trial

From JOHN WILCOCKSON, LIMOGES, FRANCE

ASSUMING that Greg LeMond races according to his normal form today, he will become only the sixth cyclist in history to win a third Tour de France. To achieve this distinction, the 29-year-old American has to beat Claudio Chiappucci, of Italy, by at least five seconds in the penultimate stage, a 28.5-mile time trial around the Lac de Vassivière, 35 miles east of Limoges.

Chiappucci, aged 27, was one of four riders allowed to gain more than 10 minutes in the first stage of the race. The other three men dropped out of the overall picture during the first two weeks, but Chiappucci rode strongly in the Alps and took over the yellow jersey at Villard-de-Lans, nine days ago.

Since then, the Italian has conceded all but five seconds of the 7min 27sec lead he held over LeMond at Villard. Riding more strongly than in any of his previous four Tours de France, LeMond has emerged as the dominating character of this year's event.

However, when asked yesterday by how much he expected to beat Chiappucci in the time trial, LeMond would not commit himself. Referring to his final showdown with Laurent Fignon, of France, last year — in which LeMond came from 50 seconds behind to win by eight seconds — the blond-haired American replied: "Fignon made the mistake last year of saying that 20 seconds was a big enough lead for him to keep the yellow jersey. I'm not making any predictions. I'll just ride the time trial to the best of my ability."

Even though LeMond has yet to show his best time-trialing form in this Tour — he finished fifth in each of the previous tests — he has finished ahead of Chiappucci on each occasion. LeMond also has a further psychological advantage over his Italian rival in that he won the last time trial

to be held on the Vassivière circuit, in the 1985 Tour.

It is possible that, after wearing the yellow jersey for a week, that Chiappucci will crack today. If that happens, it is possible that he could even lose second place to either Erik Breukink or Pedro Delgado, who are respectively 3min 21sec and 3min 34sec behind Chiappucci on overall time.

With the race leaders focusing their attention on the time trial, there was another chance for the also-rans to grab some attention yesterday. And, on yet another day of 90 temperatures, Guido Bonempi earned Italy its fifth stage win of the race.

Bonempi, who won three stages of the 1986 Tour, has lost much of his springing speed that earned him his previous successes. As a result, he tried a surprise tactic — a solo attack — when he found himself with a breakaway group of 19 riders, three minutes ahead of the pack, with 20 miles of the 114-mile stage remaining.

The chase was taken up by Dag-Orto Lauritzen, the Norwegian champion, but he was just unable to catch the 30-year-old Italian. Six other riders came up to Lauritzen, including his Canadian team mate Steve Bauer. But Bonempi was by now more than one minute clear, and he rode strongly into Limoges to earn a well-merited victory.

Lauritzen again broke clear of the others to take second place. After congratulations from his 7-Eleven team manager, a disappointed Lauritzen replied: "But it wasn't first."

Today, LeMond is likely to be first, and should ride into Paris tomorrow to take his third Tour de France title.

● PARIS: A police brigadier, Christian Villemin, aged 44, died yesterday after being struck by a car while directing traffic during the Tour de France (AP reports).

## TOUR DE FRANCE DETAILS

**NINETEENTH STAGE** (Castillon to Salatiel, 113 miles, 115 minutes). G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 1. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 2. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 3. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 4. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 5. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 6. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 7. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 8. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 9. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 10. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 11. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 12. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 13. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 14. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 15. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 16. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 17. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 18. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 19. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 20. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 21. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 22. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 23. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 24. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 25. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 26. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 27. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 28. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 29. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 30. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 31. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 32. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 33. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 34. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 35. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 36. G. LeMond (US), 2nd. 37. G. 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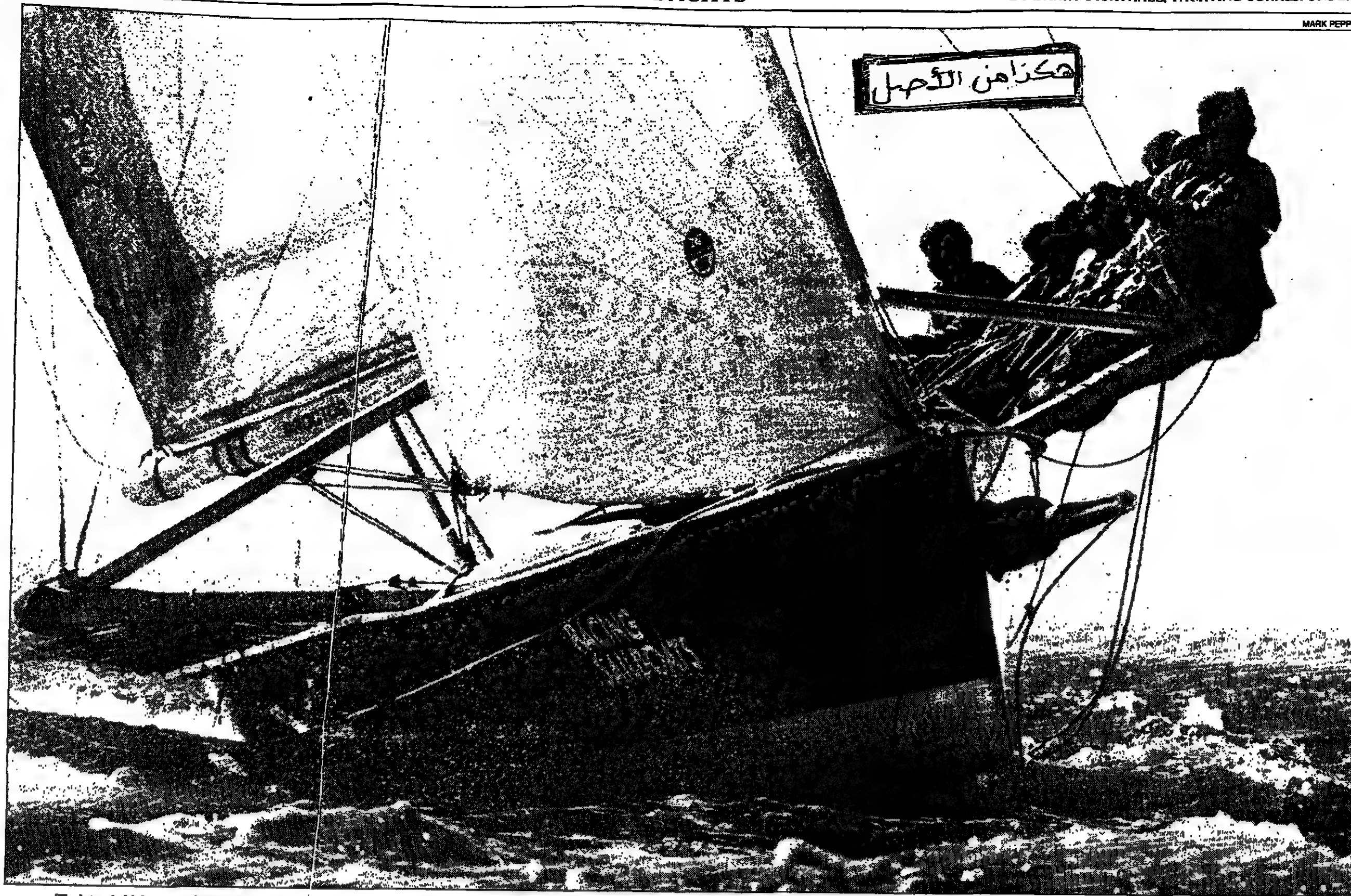












The latest in high-tech racing, yet with all the traditional style of sailing: beneath the shallow, saucer-shaped hull is a deep, thin keel, which has a lead ball at the tip to help the crew right the Ultra 30 when the almost inevitable capsize occurs

## Flying the go-faster dinghy

A new class of boat is exciting sailors and attracting prize money. Keith Wheatley takes to the water

Top-rank sailors in Britain have had two desires in recent years. One is perennial — the urge to sail exciting boats. The second is to establish a regular professional racing circuit that is televised and offers prize money. High-tech Ultra 30s are the response to this dream.

These are giant dinghies, 30ft long and with a sailplan big enough for a conventional yacht nearly twice their length, and they are the fastest monohulls on the water.

With the giant asymmetric spinnakers pulling hard downwind, the Ultras can achieve more than 25 knots, fast enough to pull a water-skier.

Upwind, their speed is only just into double figures, but the drama of having nine men leaning out to balance the vast mainsail adds a certain "visual velocity".

to the scene. Beneath the shallow, saucer-shaped hull is a deep, thin keel with a lead ball at the tip.

When the inevitable capsize comes, the by-now horizontal length of the keel is invaluable as all the crew members balance on it and attempt to lever the boat upright.

So far, the British circuit has five new boats, built with identical hulls from the drawing board of Rob Humphreys.

Sailors as eminent as Lawrie Smith, Derek Clarke and Edward Warden Owen all with America's Cup backgrounds — have guested at the helms. While these

names add glamour to the fledgling Ultra 30 circuit, they may also prove a long-term weakness.

With the twenty-eighth America's Cup only 21 months away, such top sailors are unlikely to be available to sail Ultras in the 1991 season. That was not the intention at all.

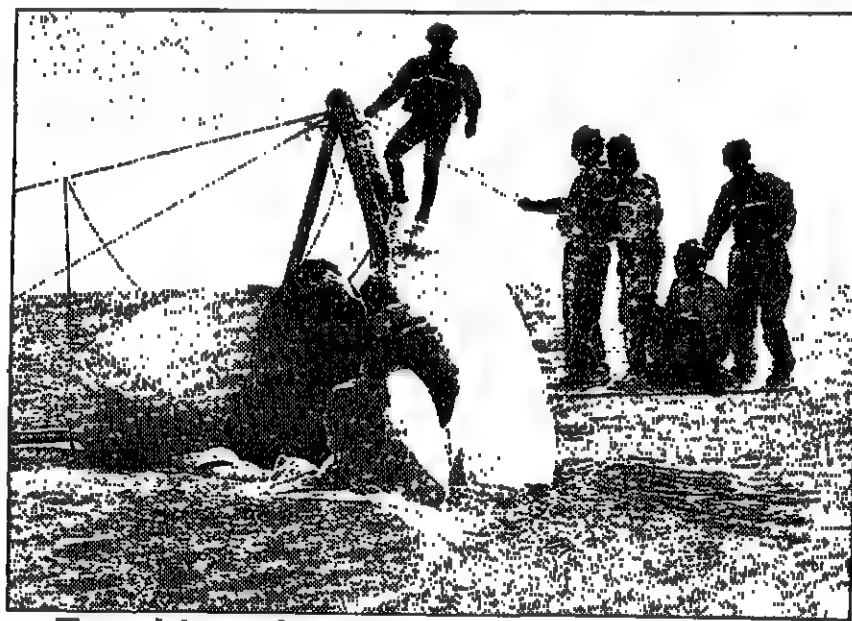
Learning from the American mistakes, Mr Humphreys settled on a virtual one-design rule, under which the winning boat would be the one that is sailed the fastest. The on-the-water cost of an Ultra 30 is about £30,000.

Television coverage will come from

TVS in Southampton and Gary Lovejoy, head of sport who has supported the circus from the outset, will record five regattas this summer for broadcast on Channel 4. Although disappointed that there are only five boats instead of the promised nine, television interest remains firm.

The highlight of this inaugural season will be at Falmouth over the weekend of August 18 and 19 when the world championship is due to be held. New boats from the Continent are expected, as well as several Ultimate 30s from the United States.

Since the championship coincides with the end of the annual Falmouth Week regatta, television viewers may be treated to the sight of these high-tech projectiles weaving through the fleet of traditional gaff-rigged oyster boats.



The crew balance on the now-horizontal keel to try to jerk the boat upright

Forget about spending weekends relaxing in a holiday cottage and invest in a powerboat instead

## Falling for a Princess with sleek style

"WHILE others have a holiday cottage, we have a boat and we use it every weekend, summer and winter, rain or shine," Ian Headon, aged 52, says.

He runs a bakery business in Holworthy, Devon, and is one of a number of entrepreneurs who are turning to the water for relaxation.

"My wife and I are heavily tied to the business," he adds, "so we keep the boat at Plymouth, 40 miles away, and use it to escape the pressure."

The Headon's boat is a Princess 415, a 42ft six-berth fly-bridge cruiser which has the speed to carry them across to the Channel Islands and France and back in a weekend.

It is the second Princess they have owned and was bought three years ago to replace a second-hand 38.

Built by Marine Projects at Plymouth, one of Europe's largest boatbuilders, the brand loyalty shown by the Headons is typical of 75 per cent of Princess owners who, according to the builders' statistics, trade up to a new model every two to three years.

"We've made money out of all our boats, but the Princesses hold their value particularly well," says Mr Headon, who turned to powerboating in 1970 after years of building and racing autocross cars.

Starting with a Pacific 550 17ft outboard cruiser, which they kept at home and trailed to the coast each weekend, the Headons graduated to a Conway 26 before trading up to their first Princess in 1983.

"We made a 10 per cent profit when we sold her three years later and I would expect

to make a 30 per cent profit if I came to sell the 415 now. Mind you, the new price has gone up by 50 per cent, so I am not sure I can afford to change," Mr Headon says.

However, with the 250 Princesses already in the water, a number that is increasing by four a week, there is no shortage of buyers for this five-year-old Bernard Olesinski design.

"She handles much better than the 30, which used to frighten me in a following sea and required courage to power her way out of a potential brood. The 415, which is less deep-vee in design, does not suffer that problem," Mr Headon advises.

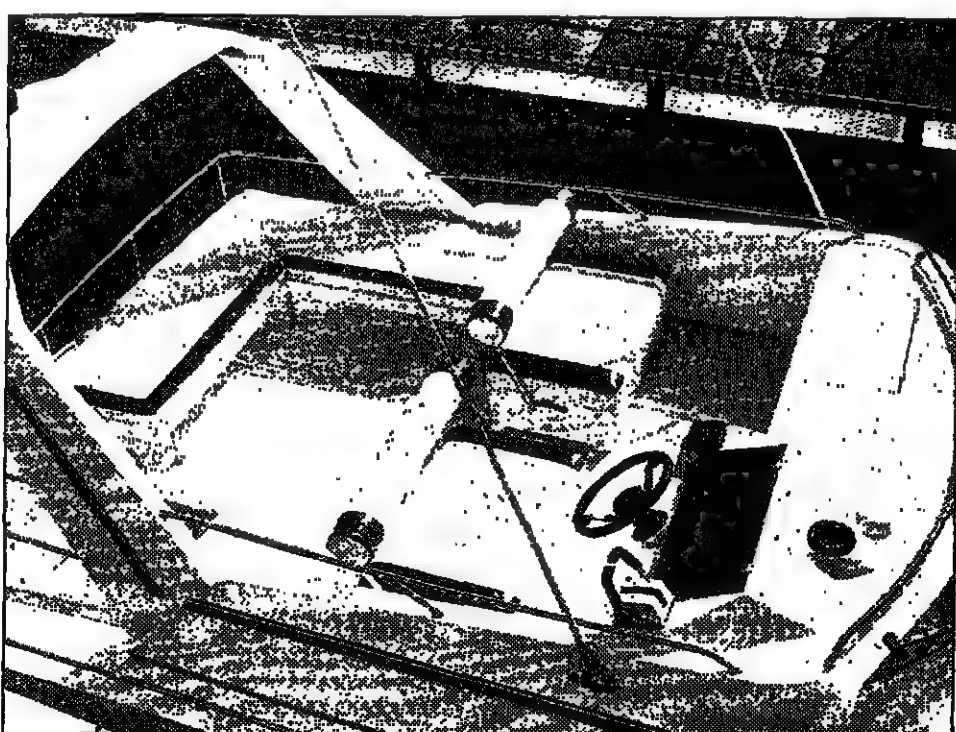
Another aspect that has attracted many owners is the boat's generous style of accommodation.

Boasting a master stateroom forward and a second double-berth cabin to starboard, both with en-suite shower and toilet compartments, the 415 also has a large, well-equipped galley to port and a spacious deck saloon which is raised above the rest of the accommodation.

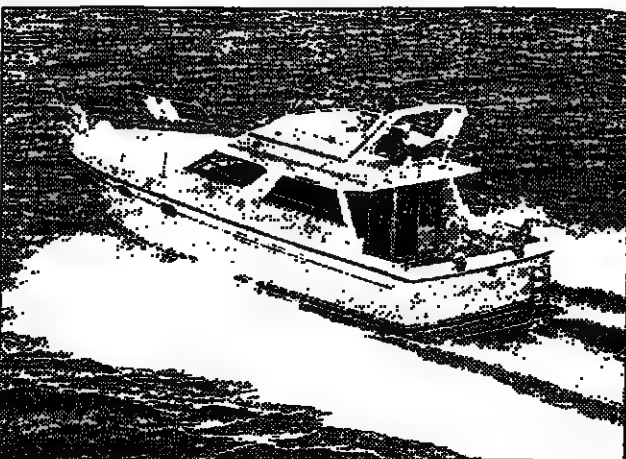
"Colossal aft cockpits are not practical in this country. You need a large saloon where everyone can sit in comfort when it is raining. That's the feature my wife likes most," Mr Headon says.

The only problem the couple have experienced with their boat has involved the engines.

"You can't fault the boat, but the stop solenoid on the port engine often failed to work and it took Volvo a total of 18 months, and a lot of



Creating royal waves: the powerful Princess fly-bridge motorcruiser (above, below)



### DETAILS

Princess 415 Fly-bridge power cruiser  
Length: 40ft 8in (12.39m)  
Beam: 13ft 11in (4.24m)  
Draft: 3ft 9in (1.14m)  
Displacement: 11.5 tonnes  
Engines: Twin Volvo TAMD61 (306hp) turbocharged diesels  
Cruising speed: 25 knots  
Range: 280 miles  
Manufacturer: Marine Projects, Plymouth (0752 227 771)  
Distributor: Marine Seol, Plymouth (0752 600 657)  
Price: from about £132,650 plus VAT.

letters from us, before it got fixed.

"Each time we wanted to stop the engine, it meant lifting up the carpets and floorboards in the saloon to get at it. Another time the gear linkages fell off.

"I would not choose these engines again but, at the time we brought her, Mar-

ine Projects did not offer a choice.

"Don't let that colour anyone's judgement about the builders," he adds. "Any problems we have had with the boat have been rectified within minutes of calling Marine Projects. You can't fault their service at all."

The Princess range of fly-

bridge cruisers and Riviera open cockpit sports cruisers begin with the Princess 266, which is priced at £38,855, and graduate in size to the top-of-the-range Princess 53 which costs £253,500. The company intends to launch a 65ft model later this year.

BARRY PICKTHALL

## In the wake of SeaCat

The argument continues about whether Hoverspeed's 220ft wave-piercing SeaCat is entitled to the Hales Trophy, after having set a new passenger ship record across the Atlantic last month. But interest in this 3,000-mile challenge remains undiminished.

Serge Madec, the French yachtsman who already holds the sailing record from New York to the Lizard, is preparing his 80ft powerboat, Jet Service, for a crack at SeaCat's acknowledged unrefuelled record crossing. Three other powered monsters are being built for attempts next year.

The largest is the 230ft Desirero with three 20,000hp General Electric LM gas turbines, under construction in Italy for the Aga Khan. A 180ft prototype patrol boat, powered by a 33,000hp Rolls-Royce RB211B gas turbine, is being built on Tyneside for Richard Noble and Ted Toleman; while the Italian Azimut group, which failed in its attempt last year, will return with a 90ft diesel-powered offshore racer.

The Hales trophy has been gathering dust in the American merchant marine museum since 1953, when the SS United States set a record of three days, ten hours and 40 minutes (35.59 knots average). Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Challenger revived interest in the challenge when it set an average speed of 36.6 knots for the voyage from Nantucket Light to Bishop Rock in 1987. Despite this triumph, neither he nor Tom Gentry, the American powerboat enthusiast who reduced the record to two days 14 hours and seven minutes (49 knots), could persuade the museum to release the trophy.

Both powerboats, which had to be refuelled during the crossing, were classed by the museum's curator as "toy boats". He claims that the trophy is for passenger ships only, but when SeaCat broke

the record he said the vessel had to be on a regular run.

Ted Toleman, who skippered Mr Branson's first Challenger (which hit a submerged object and sank less than 100 miles from the Bishop Rock finish), has chosen Commander Dai Morgan RN as his next skipper. Mr Morgan commanded the Polaris submarine, HMS Renown, during the Falklands conflict. Robin Knox-Johnston, the first man to sail around the world alone non-stop and who holds the British sailing record across the Atlantic, will navigate.

Both the British narrow dart-shaped Atlantic Springer, and the Aga Khan's longer Desirero will carry between 250 and 300 tonnes of aviation fuel, and are designed to top 60 knots during the closing stages of the voyage, when much of the fuel has been burnt off.

Their target is to beat SeaCat's unrefuelled record and Gentry's outright time of 49 hours. They also want the Hales trophy but that may require a further skirmish.

Tom McClean, the yachtsman with four previous Atlantic crossings to his credit, is making heavy going of his fifth solo adventure — in a bottle. After leaving New York on July 10, Mr McClean, who holds records for the fastest time of 54 days rowing single-handed, as well as for completing the voyage in the smallest yacht (7ft 9in), lost radio contact. His messages were picked up by a Canadian

ham radio operator this week. Having completed little more than 550 miles during his first week, Mr McClean said that strong winds had limited his speed to two knots at times. "Riding some of the waves, which have been up to 25ft high, has been none too comfy," he says.

His 37ft, bottle-shaped, steel motor-sailer is powered by a 1.8-litre engine and has a cruising speed of only three knots. The neck of the bottle, which protrudes 10ft ahead of the hull, has accentuated the directional problems.

The object is to raise £300,000 for the National Children's Home, but the lack of radio communication could have a serious effect on fund-raising. Mr McClean, brought up in an orphanage, hopes to reach Falmouth around August 14 — a week behind schedule.

Fed up with the rest of the world listening in on your radio telephone? British Telecom is working on the answer. A service to be launched in November will provide boat-owners with automatic ship-to-shore access and call scrambling, using existing on-board radio equipment.

Called "Autolink RT", all that will be required is a conversion unit costing £300-£500 to bypass the coast station operator and provide direct access to world telephone networks. The equipment has a range of 40 miles on VHF and 200 miles on MF radio frequencies.



Bottled up: Tom McClean at the helm of his Atlantic craft



Executive Editor David Brewerton

## BUSINESS

£193m thrift  
write-off by  
Ronson group

HERON International, Gerald Ronson's privately owned property and car dealer company, has written off £193 million in connection with its involvement in the Arizona thrift industry.

The extraordinary item appears in the results for the year to end-March 1990 and covers the £100 million losses incurred by Pima Savings, the company's savings and loans subsidiary, and a £100 million provision for losses on properties and affiliate companies transferred from Pima to Heron. Pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £65.3 million.

**THE POUND**  
US dollar 1.8135 (-0.0020)  
W German mark 2.9785 (-0.0021)  
Exchange index 94.0 (same)

**STOCK MARKETS**  
FT 30 Share 1898.1 (+9.4)  
FT-SE 100 2400.1 (+12.8)  
New York Dow Jones 2996.04 (+2.23)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 32421.52 (-634.10)  
Closing Prices ... Page 43

**INTEREST RATES**  
London: Bank Rate 15%  
3-month interbank 14 1/2%  
3-month eligible bills 14 1/2%  
US Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 7 1/2%  
3-month Treasury 7 5/8%  
30-year Treasury 10 1/2%

**CURRENCIES**  
London: New York  
£: \$1.8135  
£: DM 2.9785  
£: Sfr 2.5581  
£: FF 6.5533  
£: Yen 145.90  
£: Index 94.0  
ECU 20 65.183  
ECU 1.438470

**GOLD**  
London: Gold 380 75 pm 361.00  
close 361.00-361.50 (£199.00-199.50)  
New York: Gold 361.00-361.50

**NORTH SEA OIL**  
Brent (Aug) ... \$18.2500 (\$18.05)  
Denotes latest trading price

	New York	London
Australia \$	1.43	2.27
Austria Sch	13.76	13.76
Belgium Fr	64.30	64.30
Canada \$	1.14	1.14
Denmark Kr	11.84	11.84
Finland Mkt	7.29	6.99
France Fr	10.40	9.90
Germany DM	3.47	3.28
Greece Dr	228	228
Hong Kong \$	14.70	11.80
Ireland P	1.18	1.08
Italy Lit	2275	2145
Netherlands Gld	365	365
Norway Kr	11.82	11.22
Portugal Esc	270.72	265.75
South Africa R	5.20	5.10
Spain Ptas	168.50	177.50
Sweden Kr	11.20	10.50
Switzerland Fr	2.00	2.00
Turkey Lira	5000	4800
USA \$	1.81	1.81
Yugoslavia D	25.5	18.50

Prices for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 128.7 (June)

B&C wins  
partial  
victory on  
Quadrex

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH & Commonwealth, the collapsed financial services group, has won an important victory in its £280 million lawsuit against Quadrex. The American financial company has agreed to drop part of its defence and counterclaim against B & C's action which could have incurred millions of pounds in legal costs.

The claims by the US company formed a second line of defence to B & C's action and threatened to hold up settlement of the case for many months.

B & C is suing Quadrex for allegedly breaking its contract to buy M W Marshall & Co, the money broker, and William Street, the US securities dealer, for £280 million.

In the High Court yesterday, Quadrex's counsel said the company had "irrevocably and unconditionally" withdrawn allegations that B & C failed to ensure that Marshall and William Street acted properly to allow Quadrex to arrange financing lines for the bid.

Quadrex also dropped its claims against Marshalls, Michael Knowles, its chairman, Peter Bentley, its finance director, and William Street. It had accused them of interfering with its ability to complete the acquisition. Quadrex has agreed to pay part of Marshall's costs.

Both sides, however, deny the withdrawal is the first stage in a full settlement. "We considered the savings this meant in time and cost," said Harry Anderson, a partner at Herbert Smith, Quadrex's solicitors. "Our strongest defence by far is our claim of fraudulent misrepresentation by B & C which is very much alive."

Quadrex and Samuel Montagu, its adviser, are defending B & C's action on the grounds that B & C did not give all its information on the companies to Quadrex, at the time the deal was agreed. Almost all the evidence in the High Court case has now been given, and the judge will give his decision in October after the summer recess. The climbdown by Quadrex saves the two sides from fighting a further action through the winter.

C E Heath, the insurance broker and underwriter, is negotiating to buy the insurance broking business of Abaco Investments, part of B & C. The business, which does not include Abaco's reinsurance operations, had broking income of £14.8 million last year, a quarter the size of Heath's own business.

On Tuesday, the regulator issued a three-day suspension against Cleves and Mr Lee, after he had been arrested by the City of London police, and Poddington shares were suspended on the Third Market at 17p.

lan Green, managing director of Poddington, refused to comment yesterday, but a spokeswoman said the company would make a statement early next week.

Cleves was allocated 3.5 per cent of Poddington when the company was brought to the market in January last year. The company has participated in listing of several companies including Millwall Football Club, Regina Royal Jelly and Paul Michael Leisure Group.

Poddington was established to market the Poddington Peas cartoon series, which was screened on BBC TV.

On Thursday, Baynard Securities, the stockbroker and former licensed dealer, shut down because of fears Cleves would be unable to pay its debts. Baynard said the money was not due for some time and that it was linked to Poddington.

Mr Felber was not at the company's offices at Haslemere, Surrey, yesterday.

Meanwhile Castle Communications, the USM-quoted holder of video and music copyrights, has been dragged into the Parkfield collapse, with an announcement that its trading relationship with Mr Felber's crashed manufacturing and entertainment conglomerate could cost it £500,000. The shares, down 2p below the 400p level of a March rights issue at one stage, firmed to close 37p down at 413p.

Parkfield distributes two of Castle's five sell-through

ship". The trust is aimed at exploiting opportunities in the restructuring of industries in the European Community stemming from the 1992 effect. In principle, this policy will cover companies across the community. But it will initially concentrate on companies in Britain, the economy most open to takeover bids. Investment in other European countries will rise "as the barriers to acquisition on the Continent are lowered".

Although Robert Fleming, the merchant bank known for trust investment, is sponsoring ECU Trust, it will be managed by Gordon House Securities, the first time Fleming has launched a trust for an outside adviser. Gordon House is a two-year-old management company, started by the former Walter Walker stockbroker David Donnelly.

The company has so far worked

## Bond steps out to close one last deal



Smiling through: Alan Bond by his Kensington, London, home yesterday. The troubled businessman is seeking an orderly sale of assets.

Cartoon  
chief on  
dealing  
charges

By OUR CITY STAFF

LEONARD Lee, chairman of the cartoon marketing company Poddington plc, has been charged with market manipulation in Poddington shares under section 47 (2) of the Financial Services Act.

Mr Lee was released on bail to reappear in Guildhall Justice Rooms later this month. He is charged with creating a false or misleading impression in the market for Poddington by dealing in its shares between January 1, 1989 and July 18, 1990. The offence carries a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment.

The Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) yesterday indefinitely extended the urgent directions made against Cleves Investments, Mr Lee's private corporate finance company, and Mr Lee, forbidding them to conduct business. Fimbra also made Cleves' other two directors, Dennis Arthur Newman and Richard Frederic Neats, subject to suspension orders.

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The company has so far worked

Europeans resigned to Japanese arrival  
Fujitsu on track for ICL

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE search for a European alternative to the proposed takeover of Britain's ICL computer company by Fujitsu of Japan looks increasingly desperate as leading European computer firms appear resigned to accept the arrival of a Japanese company in their home market.

Siemens, the West German electronics company and Europe's second largest computer manufacturer after IBM, is understood to have decided not to take any action on ICL and will instead concentrate on using its resources to turn around Nixdorf.

The West German group, in line with all its European competitors, is known to be concerned about Fujitsu's arrival.

The proposed takeover by Fujitsu has come at the worst possible time for the European computer industry, which has lost much ground to competition from Japan, more

because of strategic management mistakes than an inherent lack of competitiveness.

The computer industry faces a similar development as the telecommunications sector, where the investments needed to launch new generation systems are expected to double every time. In telecoms this has left a handful of large companies in the driving seat, relegating medium-sized players to market niches.

Plessey, a medium-sized group, had to yield to this pressure. Siemens argued the case most persistently during its joint bid for Plessey. Now Fujitsu is trying to do the same, and Siemens cannot argue any differently.

The pressure that may lead ICL to link up with Fujitsu is similar. STC spends about £300 million in research costs on ICL, a figure likely to rise substantially - and possibly above STC's means over the next few years.

While Europe boasts three of the world's largest computer companies, its computers remain small in comparison with IBM, whose world market share is estimated at between 70 and 80 per cent.

If Fujitsu succeeds, it will overtake Digital Equipment Corporation as the world's second largest supplier.

In Europe, the Japanese threat has been felt least. While IBM dominates the European market with estimated sales of \$21.8 billion, the Japanese manufacturers have played a minor role. But effectively the same is true for Europe's indigenous industry, as even two companies, say Bull and Olivetti, put together would not create a larger one.

If the telecoms parallel holds true for the computer industry, Europe stands little chance of succeeding.

Comment, page 39

Maxwell in  
line to buy  
BSB stake

ALAN Bond is a deal-sticker to the end. Apart from trying to appease impatient holders of Bond Corp's convertible bonds, he is in London to try to sell his stake in British Satellite Broadcasting to Robert Maxwell, the publisher.

But it may be his final deal. Unlike the mid-1970s when he fought back to the top of corporate Australia, Mr Bond is ready to surrender control of his "master" company, Bond Corp, to ensure an orderly sale of assets.

On Thursday, Mr Bond managed to buy three more weeks when he convinced bondholders not to vote against two resolutions by offering to resign as chairman and cut his family company's voting rights in Bond Corp from 56 to 25 per cent.

Holders of \$340 million of convertibles will be offered preference shares, which if converted will give them control. Some buyers of the bond emerged yesterday, prepared to punt on one more interest payment.

On Thursday, the department issued three writs against firms of financial advisers as part of a campaign to recover almost £150 million compensation paid to victims of the Barlow Clowes collapse.

The government has so far paid out £148.8 million to thousands of small investors who lost money when Barlow Clowes was forced to cease trading by the Securities and Investments Board in 1988.

As part of the deal investors had to assign rights of recovery to the government and the DTI has now begun issuing writs.

On Thursday, the department issued three writs against Palfreys Consultants of London, two against Analysis Financial Services of Mayfair and one jointly against the Country Gentleman's Association and CGA Financial & Investment Services of London.

The department has also issued writs against Midland Bank and five firms of financial advisers.

Felber 'near to resigning  
as Parkfield chairman'

By MARTIN WALKER

ROGER Felber, the chairman of Parkfield, which founded this week under £277 million of debts, is believed to be close to resignation as the administrative receivers pick up the pieces of his shattered empire.

"Of course he will consider it (resignation)," said a highly-placed source at Parkfield. "It will be one of the things on his mind, along with a lot of others."

Mr Felber was not at the company's offices at Haslemere, Surrey, yesterday.

Meanwhile Castle Communications, the USM-quoted holder of video and music copyrights, has been dragged into the Parkfield collapse, with an announcement that its trading relationship with Mr Felber's crashed manufacturing and entertainment conglomerate could cost it £500,000. The shares, down 2p below the 400p level of a March rights issue at one stage, firmed to close 37p down at 413p.

Parkfield distributes two of Castle's five sell-through

ship". The trust is aimed at exploiting opportunities in the restructuring of industries in the European Community stemming from the 1992 effect. In principle, this policy will cover companies across the community. But it will initially concentrate on companies in Britain, the economy most open to takeover bids. Investment in other European countries will rise "as the barriers to acquisition on the Continent are lowered".

Although Robert Fleming, the merchant bank known for trust investment, is sponsoring ECU Trust, it will be managed by Gordon House Securities, the first time Fleming has launched a trust for an outside adviser. Gordon House is a two-year-old management company, started by the former Walter Walker stockbroker David Donnelly.

The company has so far worked

video labels, comprising less than half its output.

The £500,000 figure for the year to end-June, which compares with analysts' pre-tax profits estimates of £2.8 million, includes debts owed by Parkfield to Castle and possible disruption costs if Castle needs to switch to another distributor, but the eventual cost could be "materially less," said Terry Shand, the chairman.

The administrative receivers, Cork Gully, will announce next week the results of an initial review of Parkfield, which takes in a wide range of activities, including foundries and film financing, through its backing of the film *The Krays*.

The manufacturing side is thought to be still viable, but the video distribution business will need an amount of slimming. In particular, a surplus of several million videotapes has built up and has helped to trigger Parkfield's decline.

The receivers are now considering what to do with these. An immediate, mass sell-off would flood the market and drive prices sharply downwards.

Of the £277 million debts, £138 million are owed to the banks and £45 million are off the balance sheet.

There is £35 million of commercial paper in issue and suppliers such as Castle are owed £60 million.

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DTI issues  
six writs  
on Clowes

By STEPHEN LEATHER

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, has issued six more writs against firms of financial advisers as part of a campaign to recover almost £150 million compensation paid to victims of the Barlow Clowes collapse.

The government has so far paid out £148.8 million to thousands of small investors who lost money when Barlow Clowes was forced to cease trading by the Securities and Investments Board in 1988.

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■ CAPITAL GROWTH - Net asset value up 29.47% against decreases of 7.90% and 10.30% in the FTA All Share and Morgan Stanley Capital International World Indices since 31 July 1989.

■ DIVERSIFICATION - investments in 94 companies operating in 13 emerging economies diversified across 23 industry groups.

■ DIVIDEND - Final ordinary dividend and special dividend if approved, will be paid on 1 September 1990 to shareholders on the register at 2 August 1990 (other than in respect of new ordinary shares issued in the April 1990 rights issue, which do not rank for dividend).

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مكتبات الأصيل



# Cashing up the chips at STC

## COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

There is more, much more, to the sale of Britain's main-frame computer industry by STC than meets the eye, or than the STC management would care to admit. I say sale, without the qualification "proposed", because the deal to sell a controlling stake in ICL to Fujitsu of Japan seems to be agreed in all its dimensions: price, shareholding, debt levels and so on. Barring accidents, the deal will be signed in six days' time.

The sale marks the first step in the break-up of STC. If there is to be a second step, which is likely but not inevitable, it will be accomplished either by the management itself under Arthur Walsh, the chairman (and chief executive), or by the combined forces of Fujitsu and Northern Telecom, which holds 27 per cent of the STC equity. The timetable has yet to be laid down and the methodology has yet to be refined, but the idea is developing and is already more than a mere twinkle in somebody's eye.

From the standpoint of ICL, the deal with Fujitsu makes considerable sense, although that

does not mean that ICL is fully behind it. ICL has lived a reasonably quiet life as part of STC, and has been quietly successful. It is, however, too dependent on the British market and if the deal is to work for Fujitsu, ICL will have to try much harder in continental Europe, an environment that is hostile, protectionist and near paranoid about Japanese competition. Life as an ICL salesman will never be the same again, but, if the company is to be developed as Fujitsu's European base, it can be only to the good of both the company and the country.

The sale is also welcome to Northern Telecom, which has seen STC concentrate its resources on ICL rather than on its own joint venture. Northern Telecom will be glad to see ICL off the premises, and the friendship of Paul Stern, the chief executive of Northern Telecom, with Takuma Yamamoto, the president of Fujitsu, is not

irrelevant to the deal now being concluded.

There is said to be a faction on the STC board that does not see the deal in quite such a rosy light. It recognises, quite rightly, that STC would have little protection from a hostile takeover without ownership of ICL, which at least has public interest aspects (in defence and the supply of computers to the public administration) that would need to be examined. The buyer for the residue of ICL would be on hand, and there would be a little pile of ready cash on which the bidder could lay hands. It is also argued that ICL has launched its new generation of computers already, and would be capable of generating considerable amounts

of cash over the next few years, cash that could do wonders to STC's business. Longer term, the reverse is probably true.

There is likely to be some institutional, as well as political, noise about the sale, as old axes are taken out for a thorough grinding. The European manufacturers will be doing their best to sink the deal, which does threaten a weak market with a formidable competitor.

Relations between STC's chairman (and chief executive) and some of his institutional shareholders were damaged last year when Mr Walsh sold half a million shares into the market at 339p, the fruits of an option exercised at 80p. He still holds another half-million shares. Mr

Walsh, aged 63, came into STC after a lifetime's career with GEC and has largely completed the cost-cutting and pruning that the group required. If he judges that the time is ripe for him to cash up and retire, few would blame him.

## High Roller

Americans are again taking a shine to Rolls-Royce, just as they have taken one to the shares of British Airways. There is a mixed blessing bestowed by American shareholders.

On the positive side, when a American fund decides to buy, the effect on the share price is likely to be warmly beneficial. However, when they want out, getting the shares sold can be more important to them than the exit price. For BA, there is the potential complication of convincing the world that it is still the British

flag-carrier when another airline is proportionately more British-owned.

It is less than a year since Rolls-Royce, after a long battle between the government and the European commission, increased the limit on overseas shareholdings from 15 per cent to 29.5 per cent.

Rolls-Royce is now signalling that the level of foreign ownership is up to 25 per cent, a warning to the market that it needs to keep a watch to make sure that it does not sell shares that cannot be registered. If the limit is again reached, the question should surely be asked whether it should be abandoned completely. After all, a foreign owner could hardly pick up the Rolls-Royce plants and export them.

The limit on foreign ownership is one of those post-privatisation anachronisms that still hang about in dusty corners of a number of former lame ducks. Like the golden share for Britoil, which is finally to be given up years after the company was taken over, they are no use to man nor beast.

# Tokyo cash helps revitalise a below par Scottish hotel

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE Old Course Hotel and Country Club at St Andrews was once disparagingly described during televised coverage of a golf tournament as "a chest of drawers with the drawers left out".

Now, after a Japanese-led takeover and a £15 million interior redesign and facelift during the off-season, the hotel reopened this summer, just in time for the British Open, as a less jarring companion to the ancient golf links and picturesque town in Fife.

Nevertheless, many locals are still to be heard grumbling, harking back to the days when nothing but a railway station, station master's cottage and two coal sheds adjoined the famous Road Hole, that wicked 17th green where countless championship dreams have been dashed.

The refurbishment of the hotel used enough carpet to cover all 18 of the golf course's greens and enough marble tiles to pave the perimeter of the entire course.

The hotel also now boasts a spa where, besides the usual exercise equipment and swimming pool, Scottish masseurs will pummel the body into shape or provide rejuvenating therapies, such as *shiatsu*, a Japanese massage akin to acupuncture without needles.

The new owners, led by Seibu Saison International, the Japanese hotel and retailing group which recently bought Intercontinental Hotels, have been keen to maintain the hotel's Scottish aura rather than introduce an oriental flavour.

"The last thing the owners want would be to make it Japanese. It needs to reflect what it is and where it is," says Peter Crome, the general manager, who ran the Savoy Hotel for eight years until the end of last year.

"After the excitement of the Savoy's centenary year, I needed another challenge — and here it is," says Mr Crome.

Mr Crome, who was put off golf in his youth because of compulsory caddy for his father at a penny a hole, is even beginning to warm to the golfing ambience. He has started to take lessons.

Sadly for most of his guests the hotel location does not ensure them a round on the Old Course. "We can only get a



Too time: Peter Crome, general manager of the Old Course Hotel

couple of hundred tee times a year," sighs Mr Crome.

"But there are 33 superb golf courses in the vicinity — and a whole range of charms, including wonderful castles, both in the town and the surrounding areas.

"It's a well-kept secret that St Andrews means far more than golf."

When it comes to hotel decor and management, Mr Crome believes in understatement. He is also somewhat coy about the Japanese ownership of the Old Course Hotel.

Although it holds the bulk of the shares, Seibu is mentioned last in the hotel's press handouts after the Royal and Ancient (which provides prestige rather than much hard cash), Robert Fleming, the investment bank, and the

Rockefeller and Oppenheimer family trusts.

The only obvious sign of a Japanese presence is the front-of-house trainee, Yoshi, who had been working at Seibu's hotel in Tokyo.

However, the Old Course Hotel now accepts the same credit cards that millions of Japanese use at their local Seibu supermarkets and at the lavish Seibu department stores in Tokyo.

So far, says Mr Crome, only 8 per cent of guests this year have been Japanese, though there are plans to arrange more package tours from Tokyo.

Two of the Japanese guests who are staying at the hotel with a host of top golfers, with their wives and children, are Isao Aoki and his wife Chie.

They seemed more than satisfied with the hotel service.

"I'm enjoying it. It's a far better hotel now than when we were here for the Dunhill Cup at the end of last year. And the restaurants are far better," said Mr Aoki.

The room rates appear a trifle steep, though, with the average double room costing £170, slightly more than before the hotel's refurbishment. Mr Crome insists the higher prices offer better value for money.

"We know we can rake in loads of money during the Open," says Mr Crome, "but there must be limits. I was tempted to set up a huge marquee to cater for the 60,000 who walked by each day — but that would perhaps be going over the top."

## Investment pays off at Dillons

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

TERRY Maher, the critic of the net book agreement preventing booksellers from giving discounts on books, said that book sales at his Dillons shops are growing faster than forecast, thanks to the £23 million invested in refurbishment since 1988.

Mr Maher, chairman of Pentos, the owner of the Dillons bookshops and the Ryman office supplies chain, said Dillons' sales continue to grow by more than 30 per cent each year, with book sales in London running at more than £30 million each year, easily making Dillons the capital's biggest bookseller.

Opening a £1 million Dillons bookshop at Oxford Circus, Mr Maher said: "At this time of pain and anxiety in much of retailing, I can report that our investment is proving a remarkable success."

He said that sales in the new Dillons in King's Road, Chelsea, were more than 20 per cent above expectations. Sales in its first full year will be more than £2.25 million compared with the £850,000 of book sales achieved by its previous occupant.

Mr Maher said: "We remain on target to achieve our objective of a 15 per cent share of the British market by 1994."

## Cash mound points to return of junk bonds

### The full coffers of American institutions may give high-yield debt securities a second chance

A HUGE build-up of cash in the coffers of institutions in the United States will lead to a new wave of junk bond issues being launched this autumn, American bankers believe.

The once-mighty junk bond market, worth \$300 billion in 1989, nose-dived in the first six months of this year after the demise of Drexel Burnham Lambert and the collapse of a number of much-publicised leveraged deals.

However, inflows of cash from coupon payments on outstanding bonds, the retirement of existing bonds and the dearth of new issues since February have resulted in the build-up of a wall of money waiting to return to the market.

In January, an annualised equivalent of \$10 billion of cash was withdrawn from high-yield funds in the United States and reinvested elsewhere. By last month, the position had been reversed, with an annualised \$10 billion cash inflow to high-yield funds.

The excess supply of cash has resulted in spreads over Treasuries for the highest-rated junk bonds narrowing by 50 basis points to 304 basis points since the height of the Drexel affair in February.

The build-up of funds committed for investment in

between February and last month.

The deals expected to emerge this autumn are not likely to be the old-style leveraged buyouts of quoted companies, but more conservatively structured refinancings and acquisition financings for strategic, rather than financial, takeovers.

A spokesman for the investment bank Kidder Peabody said that debt/equity ratios of five to one, rather than last year's ten to one, would be the norm.

Mr Monaghan said that a return to the \$5 billion to \$10 billion a year level of deal-making seen in the mid-Eighties was possible, but not the \$25 billion to 30 billion level seen at the height of the junk fever of the late Eighties.

The junk bond market received a fillip this week with the successful refinancing of RJR Nabisco, the largest-ever leveraged buyout. The operation yielded capital gains for holders of the bonds being retired and generated favourable publicity for the junk bond market, Mr Monaghan said.

RJR's convertible debentures 2009 are now trading at about 117 cents in the dollar after touching lows of about 60 earlier this year.

Jonathan Prynn

## Markets shrug off disruption by 'convenient' bomb

# IRA hoist by its own petard

By OUR CITY STAFF

The IRA is clearly not expert at traded options. If the bomb had exploded two days earlier, when contracts expired and became due for settlement, it would have created mayhem among London options traders. As it was, it could have scarcely chosen a more convenient time to close the market.

The London Traded Options Market, housed in the International Stock Exchange, deals in put and call options in 67 of the stock market's largest companies as well as in the FT-SE 100 index itself. Its 300 dealers from London's largest securities firms trade 25,000 to 30,000 contracts a day.

The bomb warning at 8.04 am yesterday cleared the trading floor before dealing was due to begin at 8.40 am. The damage to the visitors' gallery and part of the floor ensured that trading would not open again that day. The stock exchange engineers are expected to test and repair LTO's computers over the weekend, to have the floor ready for trading on Monday.

The rest of the stock market continued to function, evacuation operations permitting, as normal. Most of the 900 exchange staff, except engineering and technical specialists, were sent home. Some other key workers moved to offices in Christopher Street and Finsbury

Square near by. By lunch, the police reopened the tower, allowing the clearing to begin.

The exchange's main computer is housed in an anonymous building in the East End, with market-makers linked by the Sea and Topic information and computer dealing systems and the STX telephone exchange.

If terrorists had attacked the Stock Exchange before Big Bang in 1986, the whole of the City's financial markets would have ground to a halt. As it was they scarcely hiccuped. The closure did prevent the exchange calculating the volume traded or some of the indices, but dealings in individual shares was as busy as it ever is on a sunny Friday.

Options traders had expected an uneven day on the market before the explosion. The July company options all expired on Wednesday, and the next expiry date for FT-SE options is not due for some days.

If the market had closed on either of those days, it would have left investors and speculators with open positions and facing possible losses of tens of thousands of pounds. The stock exchange may have been forced to extend the expiry dates, to limit the confusion.

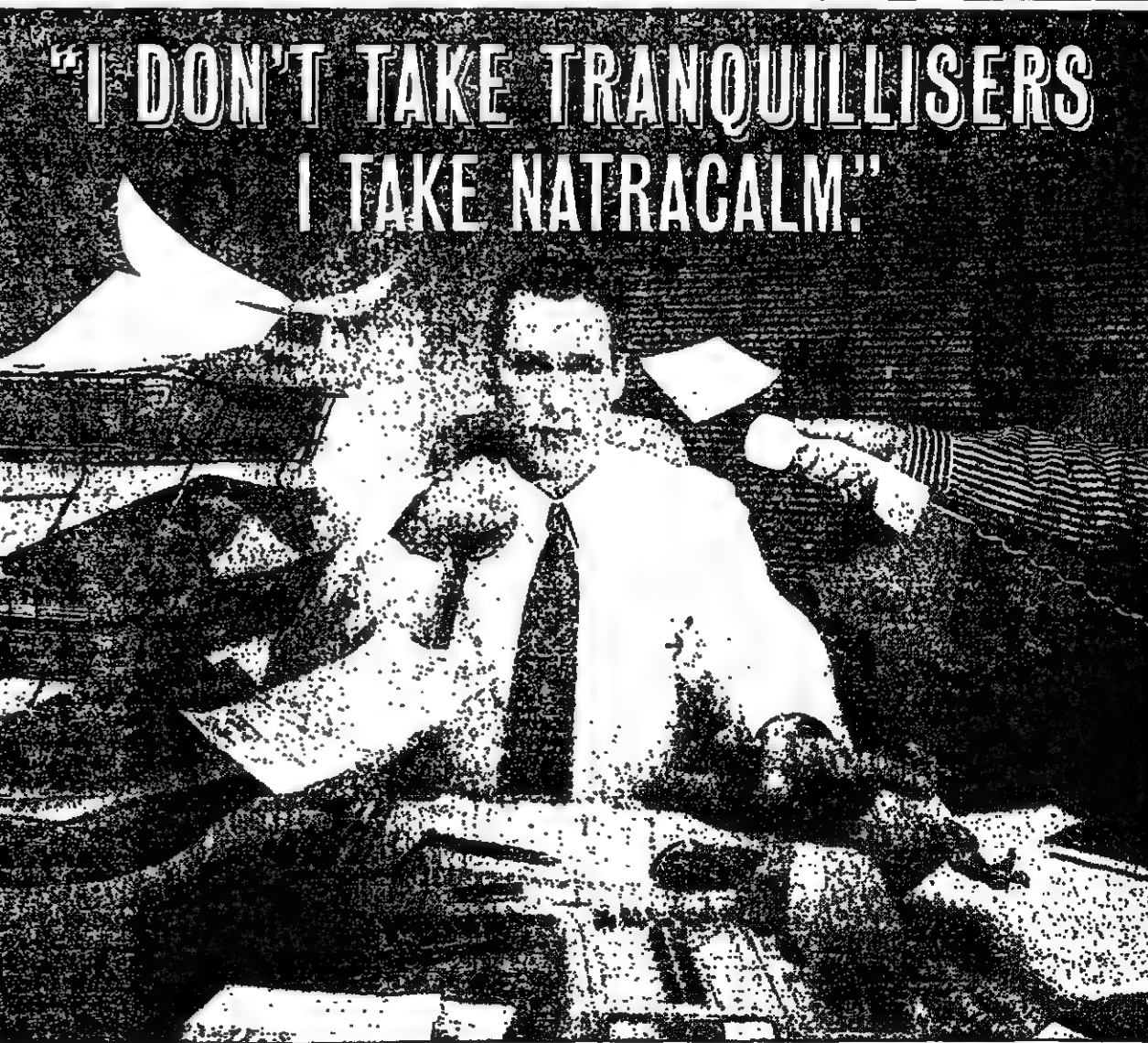
Yesterday was also the end of the Stock Exchange's two-week accounting

period which further limits options activity. Call holders are not allowed to exercise their options on the last day of account, to stop the options writers being left short of stock for the new account.

As dealers trailed home to catch up on some sunbathing, they thanked their good fortune the market was quiet. By lunch the FT-SE 100 index had gained only 11 points at 2,393.3, closing the day at 2,400.1, up 12.8, so no-one with open positions was facing painful losses. Even if they had been, they could have hedged in the futures or warrants market or even in the underlying stock.

The only leading company where there was sustained interest was Cable & Wireless, which opened 20p lower after reports of a profits forecast downgrade by Kleinwort Benson. One broker tried to set up an over-the-counter option deal for an institutional client and bypass the market, showing where there is a will, there is a trade.

Disruption continued through the day, as the police were plagued by hoax bomb warnings. The London Futures and Options Exchange, the commodity market, and the International Petroleum Exchange were closed between 2.15 pm and 2.45 pm after police had evacuated International House, their headquarters by Tower Bridge.



"IT HAD BEEN ONE OF THOSE WEEKS,

AND IT WAS CERTAINLY PROVING TO BE ONE OF THOSE DAYS . . .

NOTHING WAS GOING RIGHT. BUT I COPEd,

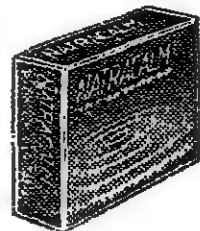
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## Anglo-French battle for theme park continues

## Universal choice delayed

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

A DECISION by Hollywood's Universal Studios on whether to choose London or Paris for its European expansion has been delayed for the third time.

Mr Doug Binder, a spokesman for Universal, said yesterday that he did not think a decision would be made on the location of a European theme park until "at least the end of the year".

MCA, Universal's parent company, was to have made the choice between the Essex site of Rainham Marshes, or a site near Paris this summer. But talks between MCA and the two countries delayed a decision until now appears six months away.

The proposed \$1.2 billion project, which could create 12,000 jobs, has been the

subject of fierce lobbying by Britain and France. MCA executives have met Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister, and Michel Rocard, the French prime minister.

Both countries have offered concessions to attract MCA. Britain's last offer was valued at \$250 million.

Should MCA choose Paris, it would compete directly with the Walt Disney theme park that is due to be open near the proposed Universal site in two years' time. The key to whether MCA wants a beach on the site is the performance of its \$650 million Studio Tour park, which opened near Disney's theme park in Florida six weeks ago.

Three of Studio Tour's attractions, King Kong, Earthquake and Jaws, are still not working. Mr Binder said: "We are not putting a date on when

these will be running satisfactorily. We don't want to shoot ourselves in the foot twice."

Computer co-ordination of the special effects is causing the problem. The software is not synchronising the actions of two 37R apes, four trains being shaken in an earthquake measuring 8.3 on the Richter scale, and a mechanical shark which attacks a free-floating pontoon and drags it through the water. Jaws has been working spasmodically, but Universal no longer promises the shark as an attraction, and gives dissatisfied customers a free day pass and will discuss refunds with foreign tourists.

Mr Jay Stein, president of the theme parks for MCA, has said that the success of the group's Florida venture—in which Rank is a 50 per cent partner, investing \$150 million—is critical for plans to

compete with Disney in Europe and Japan.

MCA needs an average 16,500 customers a day to meet its first-year target figure of between 5 million and 6 million visitors. The group needs at least 8,000 a day to break even.

About 1,000 of the 10,000 who attended the opening day, demanded, and were given, refunds.

Theme Parks provide only a small percentage of MCA's profits, a large part of which are made on feature films. Half-time profits released yesterday rose 10 per cent to \$76.4 million on sales up 21 per cent at \$1.86 billion.

MCA says the first half was boosted by Universal's films *Bird on a Wire*, with Mel Gibson and Goldie Hawn, and *Back to the Future Part III*, with Michael J. Fox.

## Why English football stands to score with a super league



KENNETH FLEET

Gorgeous girls, soaring stadia, passion under Italian skies, the excitement of sudden death—no, I concede, the image of the national game one is likely to see taking the whipper for a walk in West Hartlepool, but the fair face of football seen by millions who watched the World Cup on television.

There were blunders of course, notably England's losing the shoot-out against West Germany which, as we now know, led to Nicholas Ridley's valedictory address in the *Spectator*. Defeat meant the lads made their triumphant return in Luton. If they had won the cup, the Football Association, with an unerring instinct for these things, would have diverted their coach to Basildon. But the real point is that Italy confirmed three things about soccer: it is the world game; it has enormous potential; and its power to draw television audiences is without equal.

This is a potent commercial brew which cannot fail to change the game in this country. How far and how fast English football will respond to the success of the World Cup and the admission of English clubs to European competitions depends on the imagination and determination of the FA, the Football League and the clubs. At this point my optimism begins to fade: in the boardroom football is not blessed, it is cursed. However, I still believe the forces of change are now too strong for the dinosaurs to resist. Television alone may do the trick.

When the present agreements for televising football are renegotiated in two years the winning bid will be at least £5 million a year. This is real money in any language but it will be forthcoming only at a price. At a mini-

mum the price will be a super league of 12 clubs, ten English and two Scottish, which will attract the biggest TV audiences and to which most of the money will be paid.

So far a super league has been successfully resisted by the massed ranks of lesser clubs but by 1992, the leading clubs, if they wish to survive and prosper in the European footballing arena, will have to embrace the super league even if they have to break away from the Football League to do it.

Football in Europe is no longer a place for ostriches, even ostriches with "character" or good left feet. The Turin club Juventus, owned by Gianni Agnelli and Fiat, is reported to have offered Tottenham Hotspur £8.5 million for Paul Gascoigne and £3.5 million for Gary Lineker, the most charismatic and effective players in England's world cup team. Not every player will be persuaded by lucrative contracts to play in Italy, Spain or Germany but if it is to keep star players, the English game needs to be in good financial shape to compete, and to offer the stars a European stage. Without a super league this cannot happen.

The pressures on the leading clubs to change will not stop with a 12-club super league. TV would like the added ingredient of regional rivalry, with one super league club "representing" each major footballing area. This would

mean merging Newcastle and Sunderland, Arsenal and Tottenham, Aston Villa and Birmingham City, Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers, Derby and Nottingham Forest, Leeds and the Sheffield clubs, Manchester United and Manchester City, but not of course Everton and Liverpool.

Ground sharing would come before mergers. It is shameful to realise the world cup will not be held in England for at least another 20 years because we no longer have the grounds with the capacity and facilities to stage the competition. Ideally we need some clubs to merge and move to newly-built stadia. Outside London the redevelopment plan of existing grounds is not there to finance a stadium without local or central government money.

The one stadium which can take the size of crowds attracted by the leading Italian and Spanish clubs is, of course, Wembley. With a super league and European competition to bolster their support, Arsenal and Tottenham say, having turned Highbury and White Hart Lane into Tescos, would alternate Milanese style and weave new legends on the magic turf.

Investing in the new golden age of English football is not easy. Only one first division club is quoted but it happens to be Tottenham, which is well placed, better managed than most and worth 112p a share. An offer of £12 million for the two best players is an interesting challenge for chairman Irving Scholar, who must be mindful of shareholders' interests and also aware of the lamp post from which he and his fellow directors would be strung if he does a deal with Signor Agnelli. Kenneth Fleet is a director of TVS Entertainment.

## Eastern promise lures Lonrho to Asko stake

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS  
CORRESPONDENT

Lonrho, the international trading company, has bought a 10 per cent stake in Asko, one of West Germany's largest retailing conglomerates, for DM281 million.

The move is the latest in a series of investments in West Germany by Lonrho, whose ultimate aim is to benefit from the opening of the Eastern European markets.

Asko, whose interests range from out-of-town hypermarkets and wholesaling to textiles, became one of the largest retailers in East Germany after it signed a co-operation deal with the East German consumer association, which accounts for about a third of that nation's food retailing.

Lonrho derives DM10 billion of its trade from West Germany: through its Kühne & Nagel transport company, Krupp Lonrho, the trading house, and property interests in Frankfurt and Baden-Württemberg.

Paul Spicer, a director of Lonrho, said: "We are looking at a lot of other possible developments in Germany and around Germany."

Helmut Schäfer, Asko's chairman, said: "There are a



Rowland: joining board

number of synergies, particularly in the distribution side and from Lonrho's property involvement."

West German retailers are suffering from an acute shortage of development properties as a consequence of tough planning restrictions. Dr Schäfer said Lonrho's international trading activities would help the company engage in better trade with Eastern Europe, popular in countries that suffer from foreign currency shortages.

Asko's network of petrol stations is of value to Lonrho's fuel trading businesses. The two companies already op-

erate a joint venture trading firm in Bulgaria. Dr Schäfer said a similar agreement is about to be reached in Hungary, which with Czechoslovakia is considered by Asko to be the main Eastern European market in the short term.

"In East Germany we are already investing heavily, but the same can't be said for the rest of Eastern Europe yet. What we are talking is primarily a transfer of management skills and know-how."

Talks with Lonrho started last year, when the board of Asko approved in principle the sale of a 10 per cent stake by Asko, a West German retailing group, to Lonrho. Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive, will join Asko's supervisory board in August. About DM215 million will be paid in cash, with the remainder in Lonrho shares.

Asko had a turnover of DM16 billion last year. Through cross shareholdings, the company is linked with Messer and Metro, the Swiss-German wholesaler. The three companies have a combined turnover of DM44 billion.

Meanwhile, Lonrho is to sell its subsidiary PJH Group, a plumbing and electrical appliances company, for £67.5 million in cash.

## HK Bank unit dives into red

From LULU YU  
IN HONG KONG

MARINE Midland Bank, the American offshoot of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, slipped into the red in the second quarter of this year because of credit problems in the commercial property market.

Net losses were \$25.8 million against net profits of \$41.4 million in the second quarter of last year. For the first half of this year, the bank reported net losses of \$19.8 million, against net profits of \$81.6 million the previous year.

Despite the losses, the bank's "tier 1" capital adequacy ratio improved from 3.8 per cent to 4.9 per cent, reflecting support from the Hongkong Bank which injected \$300 million in capital in the first half.

Marine's core business also improved, with operating expenses reduced by some 8 per cent from a year ago.

The bank has been steadily reducing its exposure to debts of less developed countries. It has increased its LDC loan-loss reserve ratio to 47 per cent, from 41 per cent, and cut the absolute value of outstanding LDC debt from \$1.03 billion at end-March to US\$830 million.

## BES enjoys serious support

Last month I invited readers to let me know if they had made serious money by subscribing to a Business Expansion Scheme. I learned long ago that irony in newspapers is a mistake but from the screams you might have thought I had implied every man in the BES business was a eunuch or selling time-share.

"I inevitably get irritated," wrote Dennis Fredjohn of Capital Ventures, "by the constant criticism of what on the whole has been a very necessary and worthwhile source of finance for young ventures... It is true we have had our fair share of failures but the successes outnumber the failures substantially."

John Spiers of BES Investment thought my final comments "disappointing from a journalist of your experience and reputation". Look, for example, at the Charterhouse funds, he said. An investment of £10,000 in the 1983-4 fund would have generated

realisation proceeds of £14,220, with remaining investments valued at £1,394. "Not bad for a net cost of £2,500 to a top rate taxpayer." An analysis of all BES publicly-funded companies shows that investors have enjoyed "an excellent return on their money" superior in fact to the return on the FT-All share index over the same period.

Jonathan Stone, chairman of Property Intelligence, which offers five on-line databases of information to the property industry, began in 1984 with £375,000 of largely BES money and expects profits this year to be about £500,000. "There were no promoters and the only thing that the professional advisers did was prepare the paperwork for which they were paid modest fees." In my note I had assumed the BES promoters and their advisers had not gone unrewarded but some clearly have been less rewarded than others.

Nigel Wray, deputy chairman of Sin-

ger & Friedlander, is very proud of Takare. A listed nursing home group, Takare raised £1 million as a BES issue at 100p. The shares traded at about £6 and S&F is "very proud" to own 29 per cent of the equity. Mr Wray "basically" agreed with everything I said.

The last word goes to Tim Villiers, chief executive of the BES Association: "BES investments are high risk, and it is therefore not unreasonable to expect some companies to fail. The facts are that 14 per cent of companies raising money under the BES between 1983-9 have since failed, but only 8 per cent of the invested money has been lost."

"To put these figures into context, I suspect that the losses in British & Commonwealth may well exceed the total losses in BES companies, when the final reckoning is made, whilst the real value of money invested in premium bonds will have decreased by more than 8 per cent over the last six years."

## UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990	High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Change	%	P/E
74	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
75	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
76	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
77	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
78	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
79	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
80	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
81	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
82	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
83	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
84	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
85	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
86	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
87	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
88	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
89	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
90	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
91	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
92	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
93	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
94	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
95	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
96	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
97	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
98	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
99	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
100	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1990	High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Change	%	P/E
121	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
122	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
123	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
124	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
125	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
126	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
127	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
128	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
129	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
130	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
131	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
132	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
133	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
134	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
135	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
136	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
137	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
138	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
139	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
140	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
141	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
142	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
143	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
144	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
145	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
146	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
147	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
148	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
149	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
150	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1

## THIRD MARKET

1990	High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Change	%	P/E
151	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
152	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
153	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
154	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
155	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
156	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
157	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
158	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
159	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
160	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
161	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
162	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
163	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
164	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
165	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
166	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
167	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
168	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
169	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1
170	111	111	ABN Amro	111	111	0	0	11.1

## LONDON OIL REPORTS

Crude oil prices continued to make small gains as traders braced themselves for Wednesday's Opec meeting. Most products held steady in spot trading with the exception of fuel which fell back to meet today's buyers' needs.

CRUDE OILS/ (W/DEL. FOB)			FUTURES	
Phys.	18.10	+10		
May Aug	18.25	+20	CRUDE OIL, WTI	
May Sep	18.75	+15	Aug	170.25
Aug	19.40	+25	Sep	171.50
Sep	20.05	+15	Oct	173.75



Point	Special (C)	Index	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
U.S. Securities	8.11	432.00	101.1	32	115.0	56	
U.S. Comex	5.93	114.00	125.7	3	125.7	-3	
Comex Metals Composite	6.54	81.86	99.8	70	114.1	62	
European Securities	5.77	144.4	100.4	54	116.8	58	
European Comex	7.07	88.43	93.7	58	104.1	58	
Japanese Securities	5.10	407.95	99.9	67	116.4	49	

AUSTRALASIA

<table> <tr> <td>Securities (U.S. Australia)</td> <td>5.22</td> <td>126.0</td> <td>99.9</td> <td>31</td> <td>105.0</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comex (U.S. Australia)</td> <td>7.07</td> <td>88.43</td> <td>93.7</td> <td>58</td> <td>104.1</td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunny Australia</td> <td>5.00</td> <td>71.41</td> <td>100.5</td> <td>3</td> <td>98.0</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Securities (U.S. Australia)	5.22	126.0	99.9	31	105.0	10	Comex (U.S. Australia)	7.07	88.43	93.7	58	104.1	58	Bunny Australia	5.00	71.41	100.5	3	98.0		<table> <tr> <td>Securities (U.S. Japan)</td> <td>5.77</td> <td>144.4</td> <td>100.4</td> <td>54</td> <td>116.8</td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comex (U.S. Japan)</td> <td>7.07</td> <td>88.43</td> <td>93.7</td> <td>58</td> <td>104.1</td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunny Japan</td> <td>5.00</td> <td>71.41</td> <td>100.5</td> <td>3</td> <td>98.0</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Securities (U.S. Japan)	5.77	144.4	100.4	54	116.8	58	Comex (U.S. Japan)	7.07	88.43	93.7	58	104.1	58	Bunny Japan	5.00	71.41	100.5	3	98.0	
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Bunny Japan	5.00	71.41	100.5	3	98.0																																						

Handelson Europe Int	67.27	64.47	58.7	516.4	86	Handelson Australia	7.04	122.49	702.3	7	27.5	2
Handelson Europe Int	62.2	54.38	53.9	511.3	30	M&G Australia	5.34	120.0	704.8	1	53.6	7
Handelson Europe Int	61.49	59.6	56.9	511	73	MMB Int Australia Cos	6.23	45.53	702.1	8	92.6	3
Hickman Europe	55.0	70.52	101.5	116.7	51	New Client Serv S&P Cos	6.26	95.01	95.5	73	77.0	18
Hickman Europe	62.59	69.59	68.2	113.7	72	NSI Australia	7.7	122.0	702.0	1	56.2	12
James Cook Euro Cos	61.4	138.2	101.0	105.2	86	Schneider Australia	6.59	123.1	100.2	10	86.7	10
James Cook Europe Inter	61.4	138.2	101.0	105.2	86	Schneider Australia	6.59	123.1	100.2	10	86.7	10
James Cook Europe Inter	61.4	138.2	101.0	105.2	86	Schneider Australia	6.59	123.1	100.2	10	86.7	10

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# Portfolio

## PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this page. If it matches the dividend figure on this page, you have won a share of the £2,000 weekly prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Berkley Gp	Building/Roads	100
2	Firm Tech	Electronics	100
3	Black's Ltd	Draperies/Stores	100
4	Guinness (Int)	Industrials L-R	100
5	Guinness (Int)	Industrials L-R	100
6	King & Shanon	Banking/Discount	100
7	Bank of Ireland	Banking/Discount	100
8	Bulmer (H P)	Food/Beverages	100
9	Pringle (Int)	Industrials L-R	100
10	Guinness (Int)	Industrials L-R	100
11	United	Electronics	100
12	P & O (Int)	Transport	100
13	Macarthy	Industrials L-R	100
14	Rothmans	Property	100
15	Cornwall	Property	100
16	PGF (Int)	Industrials L-R	100
17	Colas	Oil/Gas	100
18	BAT (Int)	Food/Beverages	100
19	Webb Water	Water	100
20	Allied Text	Textiles	100
21	Sandhu (Int)	Draperies/Stores	100
22	Turnbull (Int)	Transport	100
23	Boomerang	Property	100
24	Barrow India	Newsprint/Pub	100
25	Amersham	Chemicals/Plas	100
26	Br Borico	Oil/Gas	100
27	Smurfit (Int)	Paper/Print/Adv	100
28	Macropen	Electronics	100
29	Charter Cons	Industrials A-D	100
30	JS Philology	Industrials E-K	100
31	Son & New (Int)	Beverages	100
32	Allied Ind	Water	100
33	Allied Ind (Int)	Banking/Discount	100
34	Arconia	Industrials A-D	100
35	North West	Water	100
36	Forrester	Draperies/Stores	100
37	Liberty	Draperies/Stores	100
38	Smith WH 'A' (Int)	Draperies/Stores	100
39	Allied Ind (Int)	Chemicals/Plas	100
40	Cater Allen	Banking/Discount	100
41	Cookson (Int)	Industrials A-D	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total

The winner of the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday was Mr R W Blackmore, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

## BRITISH FUNDS

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

## UNDATED

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

## INDEX-LINKED

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

## BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

## ELECTRICALS

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Oil shares buoyant

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 9. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day July 23. Settlement day July 30. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 40).

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

# Portfolio

## PLATINUM

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WEEKLY DIVIDEND  
£8,000  
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Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	%
100	100	100	100	100	0.00

Ex dividend & Ex at forecast dividend & interim payment passed. Price at suspension & dividend yield exclude a special payment & Pre-merger figures. Forecast earnings & Ex other & Ex rights & Ex corp or share split & Tax-free. No significant data.



Stakes in bricks and mortar are still far too risky, cautions Rupert Bruce

# Recovery in property shares stands on shaky foundations

SICKLY property shares have been showing signs of life over the past month but that does not mean it is time to invest in bombed-out property unit trusts in anticipation of meteoric price recoveries.

Optimists are expecting a fall in interest rates — perhaps early next year — that will take some financial pressure off highly indebted property companies. Instead, they should be looking at the number of cranes and "to let" signs in the City of London.

Property companies have built and are building too much office space, according to Carl Gough, a property analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker.

"For the foreseeable future we believe there is a lot more pain to come," he said.

In the City, which contains over a third of the country's offices, there is 7.8 million sq ft vacant out of a total of 70 million sq ft. The property companies are expected to reduce their rents.

In London's developing Docklands there is about 1.5 million sq ft to let and a further 10 million sq ft in Canary Wharf, Olympia & York. Canary's owners, have been using sweeteners to attract tenants.

There are few signs of overbuilding as yet in the provinces, but the development boom started later there and some analysts think it just a matter of time. Retail property has its problems too, as consumers continue to cut back on spending, forcing shops to close.

And UBS predicts there is £9.7 billion worth of property coming on to the market each year from speculative developers who must sell sooner rather than later. Demand amounts to only £5 billion worth of property a year.

Fears of a glut coupled with the reaction to higher interest rates sent property shares tumbling in the middle of 1989. The handful of property unit trusts have fallen from being among the best performing trusts in 1988 to being



Under construction: Building continues at Canary Wharf despite sweeteners being needed to entice tenants

among the worst. They have consequently shrunk in size as investors have sold out.

The Windsor Property Shares trust, for example, is a shadow of its former self at £2 million rather than the £7 million attained in 1987.

David Lis, the Windsor trust's manager, has watched it fall from being the best performing unit trust in 1988 to being one of the worst, even among property trusts. It has not been fortunate enough to own any of April's takeover stocks such as City Gate Estates, London & Edinburgh Trust and Laing Properties.

Mr Lis said some property and some housebuilding companies' shares are cheap and he was investing in them. Even so, he does not believe it is time to buy his trust yet. "I am not jumping up and down and saying everyone should

buy, but I don't think the time is far off," he said.

The Confederation Property Shares trust has also performed more poorly than other property shares since inception two years ago. It has had the good fortune to hold takeover targets such as Imry, Arlington, Peachey, and Laing.

Nigel Beidas, who runs the trust, is distinguishing between property investment and development companies. The former buy or develop their properties and then hang on to them to collect the rent, while the latter develop and sell.

The developers are getting into trouble because they cannot sell properties to pay off their debts, according to Mr Beidas. He has only one developer in his portfolio. Such companies have been going bust and will probably

continue to do so. Kenish Properties, JM Jones, Declan Kelly, and Sibe are among those who have been forced into liquidation or administration, while Sheraton has arranged a refinancing.

The outlook for the residential property market and housebuilding shares is brighter.

Mark Stockdale, housebuilding analyst at BZW, the broker, said: "I think there will undoubtedly be a reasonably slow recovery over the next couple of years."

"The outlook for housebuilding shares is quite good because the stockmarket anticipates 18 months ahead."

Even so, property analysts are not as optimistic as the Halifax was in its June survey, when it said the housing slump in the Southeast had bottomed out. Commercial

property forms the bulk of a property trust's portfolio and, historically, tends to recover from price slumps about a year later.

If interest rates go up, a housebuyer can pull out of a transaction, while a developer has to finish the site he is half way through.

One analyst does not expect property shares to rally for 18 months. That implies no revival in commercial property values for three years.

There may be a false dawn among property shares and unit trusts when interest rates do start coming down, but there will still be plenty of vacant office space.

The gloomy analyst said: "There will be good dividend growth in some of the larger property companies. But cash is a better investment for now."

UNIT trusts will soon be able to buy property, but investors may find that selling their holdings in the new property trusts can take even longer than selling a house.

At the moment, the only way for unit trusts to invest in property is by buying shares in property companies. When an investor cashes in units, the trust sells shares to pay the investor.

With the new property trusts, a rush of investors attempting to withdraw would force the unit trust to sell property, which takes longer than selling shares on the stock market.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the markets watchdog, hopes to limit the risk by preventing property trusts from investing more than 80 per cent directly in property.

SIB's draft rules for the new property trusts do, however, allow for a suspension of dealing if there is not enough cash to pay off departing unitholders.

The watchdog proposes that these trusts, which should be marketed some time next year, carry health warnings advising that the investment is "not suitable for a person who may wish to realise his investment at short notice".

Jeremy Edwards, group managing director of Henderson Administration, has been presiding over a similar fund since 1981.

The Prime Residential Property Fund is a life assurance bond fund, investing in central London property worth between £250,000 and £500,000.

It performed well on the back of a buoyant property market between 1981 and 1983 and attracted the attention of financial advisers. The fund grew from £5 million to £95 million in early 1987.

But in the spring of 1987, brokers decided the stockmarket was the place to be and rushed to sell. The fund now holds £25 million worth of property.

Henderson could not sell property fast enough to pay departing investors and so



Changed outlook: Jeremy Edwards of Henderson

payments, and exit prices, were suspended for 12 months. The fund had never been more than 85 per cent invested, but the cash cushion was used up fast when investors rushed for the exit.

Mr Edwards said: "I have to say that with hindsight these property funds by definition are not the ideal stable vehicles for the average private investor."

"They are too illiquid. Even though there is a health warning there is a tendency to think

these things are immediately accessible."

The new property funds can seek to circumvent the liquidity problem by investing a lower proportion in property and keeping the rest in cash. They would be better placed to meet redemptions, but investors would not reap the full benefit of property price rises.

Will Henderson be launching a unit trust investing directly in property next year? "Highly unlikely," said Mr Edwards.

## UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

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## Regulator studies Manx company

By JILL INSLEY

THE Isle of Man Insurance Authority has begun investigations into Asset Management, an unauthorised Manx investment company, which has allegedly been offering insurance bonds in Britain.

Asset Management, based at National House, Ballafurt Estate, Santon, Isle of Man, is not authorised to conduct insurance business, and does not hold the permit required for insurance companies authorised by regulatory bodies elsewhere in the world that want to conduct insurance business on the island.

But a letter from the company, dated June 18, 1990, says it issues insurance bonds, and it is still prepared to accept investments from existing customers.

The investments, called Capital Deposit Bonds, are described in the letter as single premium whole life insurance policies on a single or joint life basis, with a death benefit equal to the accumulated value of the bond at the time of death.

Bill Hastings, chief executive and insurance supervisor of the island's Insurance Authority, said: "It's not a registered insurance company, and evidence has been put in front of me which indicates it has been carrying out insurance business. We've instigated investigations."

It is not known how much money has been invested in Asset Management from Britain and elsewhere. The company's directors, as last registered with the Isle of Man's company registration authority on April 1988, are John and Alexandra Solly of Ballafurt Farm, Santon, and Michael Jackson of Saint Julia De Loria in Andorra. Its registered secretary is Worldwide Management Services, a Librarian-based company.

Mr Solly, questioned about the company last week, said he was unsure if he was a director. After further questioning he said he was not.

Mr Solly's brother, Mark Solly, was formerly head of investment supervision on the Isle of Man and is currently a partner of Moore Stephens, the accountants.

He said: "I haven't a clue what kind of company Asset Management is. My brother has hundreds of companies."

Asset Management sold its products through Financial Centres, a financial adviser based in St Albans, Hertfordshire. Roger Shrubbs, who was then director of this intermediary firm and has since become a tied agent for Allied Dunbar, the insurance company, said: "I never believed Asset Management to be a life office. I looked on them as providers of mortgage-related business initially, and then deposit takers."

He said he believes the bonds may have been underwritten by another insurance company, but papers held by one Asset Management client give no indication of another company's involvement.

## Higher-rate taxpayers lose out in cautious approach to investment

By RICHARD IRVING

AGAINST the current background of economic uncertainty, many private investors have been content to stay away from the equity market, preferring instead the relative safety of the building society.

But for higher-rate taxpayers this cautious approach to investment has not paid off. With deposit rates net of higher rate income tax languishing around 9.5 per cent and with inflation at 9.8 per cent, investors are actually losing money in real terms.

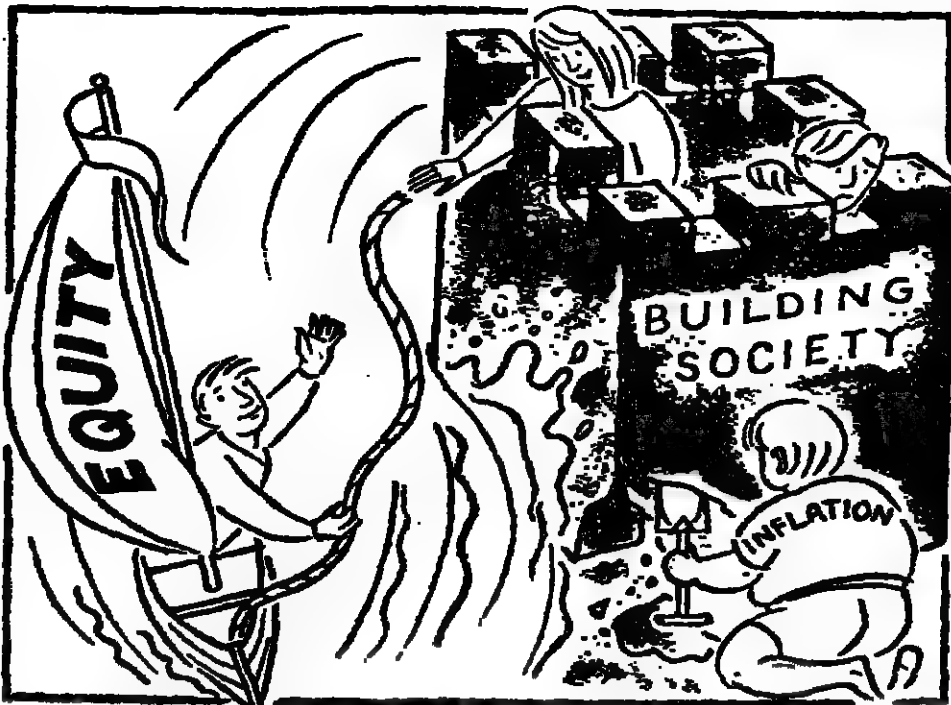
A situation which, if anything, is likely to grow worse. According to John Sheppard, Warburg's chief economist, inflation will only start to come down gradually.

"By the year-end, the retail prices index, the main pointer to inflation, will show only a marginal improvement on June's figures, after peaking in July or August," he said.

Interest rates should fall further and more quickly. Most economists predict either a 1 or 2 per cent decline in base rates by the year-end and a further 3 per cent by the middle of 1991. In all, the outlook suggests that higher-rate taxpayers are going to lose even more money in real terms as the year wears on.

Yet investors seem willing to accept the situation. "I would go so far as to say that the majority of my clients who are higher-rate taxpayers are still in the building society," said Jamie Berry, of Berry Asset Management, the independent financial adviser.

"I'm not suggesting people should close down their deposit accounts and put all their money into the equity



market. The building society is an excellent home for an emergency fund and should continue to play an important part in investors' portfolios.

"Nevertheless higher-rate taxpayers are over-exposed to such accounts and underweight in the equity market, and should therefore consider a range of alternative investments."

It is worth remembering that in the search for more competitive returns a greater degree of risk must be accepted. Deposit accounts guarantee a rate of return as well as the original capital invested, equities do not. But then, as Mr Mills pointed out, "historically, equity investment always outperforms

building society rates over the longer term."

For higher-rate taxpayers, a personal equity plan (Pep) should be the first step.

According to Mr Berry, many investors do not bother with a Pep, believing the sums involved to be too small to make any real difference. Since December 1989, however, a married couple using their full entitlement could have invested £27,000 between them, completely tax-free.

The first £3,000 of a Pep must be invested in British equities, although the remaining £24,000 may be put into a unit trust or investment trust, allowing investors to choose a British income fund or growth

fund depending on their individual needs.

Income unit trusts are particularly attractive, either for use in a Pep or on their own. A sum of £1,000 invested in the sector's top performing fund, the Newton Income Fund, back in 1985 would now be worth £3,412, assuming income to be reinvested: a performance that not only beats the FT-SE Index, but also building society higher investment rates and the sector average for growth funds.

But for investors looking for capital gain, Kean Seager, managing director of Whitechurch Securities, recommends a split capital investment trust.

Most split capital invest-

## Junk mail tops list of data complaints

By BARBARA ELLIS

JUNK mail was the main source of complaints to the Data Protection Registrar last year, accounting for 45 per cent of the 2,698 filed, nearly three times the previous year's level.

But Eric Howe, of the Data Protection Registrar, took no enforcement action on any of these complaints, and said that direct mail operators were making progress in improving their methods.

He saw the most urgent work for his office as curbing indiscriminate use of credit information and fighting creeping encroachment on personal information.

Earlier this month, Mr Howe issued a preliminary enforcement order against four credit reference agencies, instructing them to stop using third-party information by August 6. This would mean the agencies ending their practice of supplying enquirers with information on people with different surnames living at the same address.

Mr Howe's annual report, out this week, records a typical complaint on third-party information from a man living in a housing association property with 103 residents but no individual addresses. When his application for credit was rejected, he asked for copies of his credit reference files and found adverse information concerning various other residents of the property.

This week, the Industry Forum on Data Protection, a grouping of building societies, finance houses and consumer credit companies, said that from July 31 next year it would not expect the reference agencies to give information on people with the same address as the credit applicant if their surname was different.

Mr Howe said that this statement was no different from an offer the industry had made in 1988. Being in a "quasi-judicial" position, he could not comment in detail, but noted that his enforcement notice had been issued not against the credit industry, but against the reference agencies.

During the year, Mr Howe successfully fought off a government move to have National Insurance numbers used as identification for participants in the Student Loans Scheme.

"My objection was that as a matter of principle the National Insurance number should not be used unless it was absolutely necessary," said Mr Howe, noting the possibility of "data matching" drawing together information on one individual from various sources if the same identifier were used repeatedly.

Mr Howe had less success in seeking to alter the changed regulations on the sale of the electoral rolls.

Local authorities are now obliged to supply copies of the electoral roll on demand. As this is a statutory matter, it is outside the scope of the Data Protection Act, but Mr Howe argued that since electors were constrained to provide information for the roll, they were also being forced to provide it to anyone who cared to buy the records.

Although he failed to persuade the Home Office that electors should be allowed to opt out of having their names and addresses passed on, he said ministers agreed in principle that it might be possible for local authorities to supply lists of companies who bought copies of the rolls.

Comment, page 50

## Support level raised for places at public schools

IN THE early hours of Thursday, Alan Howarth, parliamentary under-secretary at the Department of Education and Science, announced changes to the assisted places scheme from next month.

The scheme, which subsidises places at public schools for the children of less well-off parents, is increasing the amount of "relevant income" that can be disregarded from £7,584 to £8,200, with corresponding increases above this level.

To encourage greater take-up, the minister announced that more schools were joining the scheme and that 60 per cent of pupils accepted must come from the state sector. In the school year now ending, 33,268 places were available in England, of which 27,008 were filled, and in Wales 631 pupils took advantage of the scheme. There is a similar operation in Scotland but none in Northern Ireland.

The parental contribution depends upon the "relevant income". This is the gross sum

from all sources, including unearned income from dependent children, less £1,000 per child, apart from the placeholder. Also exempted are child benefit, mobility allowance and some other social security benefits.

From August 21 in England and Wales and August 1 in Scotland, parents will make no contribution to fees if their income is below £8,200. This can save thousands of pounds for parents of bright children. For example, Charterhouse in Godalming, Surrey, costs £6,975 a year per pupil and Ellesmere College in Shropshire costs £6,540.

Concern has been expressed about the low take-up in certain regions, particularly the Northeast. A pooling arrangement is being introduced to make available unfilled places to other schools.

Details of participating schools and further information are available from the Independent Schools Information Service, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AC.

# SMART?

- |   | YES                      | NO                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Did you buy equities when the FTSE 100 stood at 1725 in November 1988?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Did you buy long-dated gilts in 1982 before they rose 53.9% in value?*   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Did you buy equities in December 1974 prior to the market doubling in value in two weeks?                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Will you miss the likely rise in gilt values if the Government lowers interest rates before the next election? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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The full Prospectus was published in the Financial Times and Daily Telegraph on 14 July 1990, together with a separate application form for a River & Mercantile PEP.

Investors requiring further copies of the Prospectus and PEP application form may obtain them direct from River & Mercantile Investment Management Ltd by telephoning 071-405 7722 during working hours. Over this weekend you can also request details by leaving your name and address on our answering service at 071-433 1500.

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# Corporate Pep 'first' spreads risk

By RUPERT BRUCE

CABLE and Wireless, the international electronics group, has launched what it believes to be the first corporate personal equity plan (Pep) allowing a split between a company's shares and a unit trust.

Pep holders have the option to invest in just Cable and Wireless shares or to put half of their cash into the Cazenove UK Income and Growth Fund.

Corporate Peps have been criticised in the past because there is no spread of risk in a portfolio of one share.

Harry Henderson, managing director of Cazenove Unit

Trust Management, said: "Here we have a corporate Pep, but at the same time we have tried to offer a diversification of risk alongside it."

Cable and Wireless's Pep also offers the advantage that all shares bought by the planholders are new shares and so there is no dealing charge. Smith & Nephew, the industrial company, pioneered this facility when its Pep was launched two months ago.

An increasing number of corporate Peps are being launched, taking advantage of the rules allowing an investment in equities of up to £6,000 each year free of tax.

About 30 have been launched since Peps were introduced in the 1987 Budget - seven since the beginning of this year.

British Aerospace, South West Water, Guardian Royal Exchange, Northumbrian Water, Royal Insurance, Abbey National and Lloyds are among the companies offering corporate Peps. Their motivation is to increase employee share ownership and to widen their shareholder base.

The Cable and Wireless shares are roughly the same as other corporate Peps, while they are lower than those of the typical managed portfolio plans offered by financial

services companies. There is an initial charge of 0.5 per cent and an annual charge of 0.75 per cent, although Cazenove also takes a 1 per cent annual charge on the unit trust.

CC&P Trustees, which administers the bulk of corporate Peps, typically charges 1 per cent initially and 0.5 per cent annually.

Pep holders wanting to sell their Cable and Wireless shares would have to pay a stockbroker's commission of 0.5 per cent plus a £10 administration fee. That compares favourably with normal stockbroker commissions of 1 per cent and more.

The success of recent corporate Peps - Smith & Nephew has attracted £2 million and British Aerospace £650,000 in two months - is encouraging others. CC&P Trustees has plans to launch six more this year and has talked to British Petroleum, British Telecom and British Gas, among others.

Because so many financial products, like mortgages and pensions, utilise managed or unit trust Peps, investors should beware of inadvertently opening more than one. If they do, the second will be cancelled and the securities inside it made subject to both income and capital gains tax.



Henderson: diversification

## Lenders top up supply of fixed mortgages

By RODNEY HOBSON

ENTHUSIASM for fixed-rate mortgages continues unabated despite hopes of a fall in mortgage rates next year. Cash has run out for two schemes on offer, but three new ones were announced this week.

A tentative sign of easing interest rates comes with the Woolwich building society charging 13.65 per cent over the first two years. It has a tranche of £50 million available. The Woolwich is taking

an aggressive stand, following up an investment bond paying top interest rates launched earlier this month.

It claims to have the cheapest two-year fixed rate mortgage currently on offer, just below the 13.75 per cent offered by the Alliance & Leicester and 13.95 per cent from Barclay's Bank.

Mortgages with lower fixed rates than the Woolwich tend to run for longer periods in anticipation of a general easing of interest rates, although

First Mortgage Securities offers 12.95 per cent to the end of 1991. This carries compulsory accident, sickness and unemployment insurance.

The lowest current rate is 12.9 per cent from Nationwide Anglia, fixed for five years.

The £50 million allotted by Nationwide Anglia ran out this week but a further £25 million has been arranged to extend the offer.

Household Mortgage Corporation, which already has a

two-year fixed rate deal, is adding a two-year, 13.95 per cent offer specifically for first-time buyers. Loans are available up to 100 per cent.

Scarborough Building Society introduced a two-stage mortgage yesterday with interest at 14.4 per cent until August 31, 1991, and 12.95 per cent until August 1992. Unlike many fixed-rate mortgages that must be linked to an endowment or pension, this one is available as a repayment mortgage. The York-

shire Building Society has just closed its fifth fixed-rate mortgage of the year after the available cash was exhausted. "All have proved popular and we expect to launch another," a spokesman said.

The National & Provincial expects its 13.8 per cent fixed-rate offer to be used up in the near future and intends to launch another soon afterwards. "The fact that a borrower can budget for a period of time is very attractive," it says.

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£25,000-£49,999	11.00%	£500-£999	11.25%
£5,000-£24,999	10.75%	£1-£499	11.00%

Best buy - largest sums: £50,000+ 11.58%  
Best buy - all sums: £50,000+ 11.58%

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## BRIEFINGS

■ Clerical Medical Investment Group is combining the growth potential of an investment bond with a tax-free bank or building society account. A lump sum invested in TessaSet is split into two schemes. A temporary annuity will make ten half-yearly payments of up to £900 each into a tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa) to be introduced in January following this year's Budget. The balance of the lump sum will be placed in an investment portfolio aimed at keeping the original capital sum intact over the term of the plan.

■ Co-operative Bank offers a payments protection plan to customers with overdrafts, secured personal loans or bridging loans. Sickness, accident and life assurance cover is provided in the event of death or disability. No medical is required and the plan, underwritten by Sun Alliance, is available to people aged between 18 and 65 who are employed. A corporate version covers overdrafts and commercial borrowing.

■ Most members of company pension schemes retire with a considerably smaller pension than the maximum allowed and find there is a "retirement gap" between what they need and how much they receive, research by Sun Alliance shows. It is launching Pension Reserve for additional voluntary contributions for those in company schemes. The aim is to offer flexibility to suit individual needs.

■ Keith Taylor, a local government personnel executive, aged 42, from South Wirral, Merseyside, has been elected chairman of the Stock Exchange Investors' Club. He will sit on the International Stock Exchange chairman's Investors' Advisory Group.

## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Bank of England	Commercial	Major	Investment	Notice	Current
<b>BANKS</b>						
Ordinary Dep A/c:	8.00	5.10	4.08	none/none	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	10.51	10.51	8.05	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071 898 1887
BSA	11.28	11.28	9.10	25,000-50,000	6 mth	071 825 1587
Lloyds	10.43	10.43	8.34	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Branch
Midland	10.43	10.43	8.34	10,000-no max	6 mth	01-255 3338
NatWest	10.38	10.38	8.30	10,000-no max	1 mth	071 280 2805
TSB	10.38	10.38	8.30	10,000-50,000	6 mth	071 726 1000

	Bank of England	Commercial	Major	Investment	Notice	Current
<b>HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS</b>						
Barclays	10.45	10.45	8.78	2,500	none	031-442 7777
BSA	9.50	9.50	7.87	2,500	none	0804 252891
Co-operative	9.00	9.00	4.98	No min	none	01 826 6543
Midland	9.00	9.00	4.98	1,000	none	081 596 2076
NatWest	9.00	9.00	4.98	2,000	none	01-255 3338
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.00	9.00	4.98	600	none	01-374 5274
TSB	9.00	9.00	4.98	2,500	none	081-656 8665
Wales	9.00	9.00	4.98	2,000	none	01-600 8000

	Bank of England	Commercial	Major	Investment	Notice	Current
<b>BUILDING SOCIETIES</b>						
Ordinary Share	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 pin	none	
Best buy - largest sums:						
Barclays	9.50	9.50	7.92	250 min	none	
NatWest	10.50	10.50	8.40	500 min	none	
BSA	11.30	11.30	8.05	5,000 min	60 day	
Midland	11.75	11.75	8.40	10,000 min	1 year	
Best buy - all sums:						
Barclays	11.50	11.50	9.19	5,000 min	none	
BSA	11.75	11.75	9.30	3,000 min	30 day	
Co-operative	12.25	12.25	9.79	3,000 min	80 day	
Midland	12.10	12.10	9.70	10,000 min	80 day	
NatWest	12.70	12.70	10.15	5,000 min	6 mth	

	Bank of England	Commercial	Major	Investment	Notice	Current
<b>Cash/Cheque Accounts:</b>						
Barclays	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 min	Flows via	
BSA	6.00	6.00	5.82	500 min	with larger	
Co-operative	6.00	6.00	5.82	500 min	balances	
Midland	6.00	6.00	5.82	500 min		
NatWest	6.00	6.00	5.82	500 min		
TSB	6.00	6.00	5.82	500 min		
Wales	6.00	6.00	5.82	500 min		

	Bank of England	Commercial	Major	Investment	Notice	Current
<b>NATIONAL SAVINGS</b>						
Ordinary A/c:	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c:	12.75	9.58	7.50	25,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond:	10.13	10.13	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0253 98151
Deposit Bond:	13.50	10.13	8.10	25-1,000	8 day	021-385-4900
Gift Aid Cert:	9.50	9.50	8.50	20-500/min	14 day	041-649-4555
Yearly Plan:	9.50	9.50	8.50	100-no max	5 yrs	041-649-4555
General	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Capital Bond	13.00	9.75	7.50			

	Bank of England	Commercial	Major	Investment	Notice	Current
<b>GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS</b>						
Guaranteed Life	11.80	11.80	10.03	15,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Centenary Life	11.00	11.00	9.36	1,000 min	2 yrs	Chase &
Regency Life	10.80	10.80	9.18	10,000 min	3 yrs	Very call
Lloyds Life	10.80	10.80	9.01	25,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5765
HSB General	10.50	10.50	8.82	1,000 min	5 yrs	for details

	Bank of England	Commercial	Major	Investment	Notice	Current
<b>RPI (May 89-90)</b>	+5.7%					
Bank Basic Rate	15.0%					
Personal Loan	24.9%					
Credit Card	18.5-31%					

	Bank of England	Commercial	Major	Investment	Notice	Current
<b>Holiday rates</b>						
Spanish Pesetas:	178.75					
French Francs:	226					
German Deutschmarks:	236.00					
Italian Lira:	2145.00					

	Bank of England	Commercial	Major	Investment	Notice	Current
<b>CGT ALLOWANCE, JUNE 1990</b>						
The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in 1990						
1982	0.584	0.469	0.399	0.318	0.267	0.227
1983	0.584	0.469	0.399	0.318	0.267	0.227
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1987	0.584	0.469	0.399	0.318	0.267	0.227
1988	0.584	0.469	0.399	0.318	0.267	0.227
1989	0.584	0.469	0.399	0.318	0.267	0.227
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## WEEKEND MONEY

## US juries put fly-drivers at risk

By BARBARA ELLIS

PEOPLE planning fly-drive holidays in America run the risk of serious under-insurance on hire cars if they simply take what is offered without question.

Each state has its own laws on motor insurance and sets different levels for compulsory cover, and sometimes none at all.

Most prices quoted by nationwide car rental companies include standard third-party liability cover of \$300,000 for any one accident, \$100,000 for any one injury and \$25,000 for damage to property.

But this is not enough, according to Steve Nickerson of Accident & General, who points out that American liability cases can involve much higher damages than those in Britain because they are determined by juries rather than judges.

"The jury can get very emotional and give unlimited figures out," he said, explaining that the two plans offered by his company raise cover to \$1 million in each case.

Cover extended from the standard minimum for up to four drivers aged over 25 would come to £38 for two weeks. If there are any under 25 drivers the cost is £56.

Where the hire company offers less than the standard cover, the cost of topping up the insurance to \$1 million



risks to £70 for four drivers over 25 for two weeks and to £98 if any are under 25. Drivers under 21 are barred by American car rental firms.

The Automobile Association also considers the \$300,000 level of cover per accident too low for America and recommends plans offered by Top Sure, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Extrasure Holdings, which is under-

written by New Hampshire Insurance. Like Accident & General, Top Sure extends cover to \$1 million, even on borrowed cars.

Top Sure's premiums range from £33 for one week for four named drivers aged over 25 to £120 for eight weeks. If any of the drivers are aged between 21 and 24, the rates rise to £46 for one week and £166 for eight weeks. Topping up from

below the standard cover, or covering a borrowed car, costs £60 for one week for four over-25 drivers or £83 for young drivers.

Cover for motor-homes or camper vehicles is about 50 per cent more expensive.

Top Sure also sells AmericaSure, a pound-denominated policy costing £116 for one week for four drivers over 21. This covers medical expenses

of up to £1 million, personal effects up to £1,000, currency up to £200, cancellation or curtailment costs of up to £2,000 and travel delay costs of up to £60. The plan also includes personal liability of up to £500,000 and collision damage waiver of up to £15,000.

Unlike third party liability, collision damage waiver (CDW) insurance is usually sold separately by American hire companies and is not included in the daily rate.

It covers all damage to the car, however caused. For Britons, the snag is that if they buy CDW here, the car rental company may be unwilling to accept it and may ask for some additional surety, such as a deposit.

A spokeswoman for Top Sure said the company had been having problems with a company called Lindo's in Florida, which had refused to accept its AmericaSure CDW cover, but said that as far as she knew all other rental companies were accepting it.

Lindo's is used by Virgin Holidays for its California and Florida fly-drive holidays. Virgin's brochure recommends holidaymakers to buy CDW cover when they collect their car, warning: "If you choose not to take it you will be asked to leave a security deposit of up to \$1,500 or an imprint of your credit card for a similar amount."

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THE M&amp;G PEP

## Counting the cost of cashing dollar cheques

By MARGARET DIBBEN

BUYING foreign exchange to take on holiday is easy, if sometimes expensive. But to cash a personal cheque made out in another currency is slow, costly and complicated.

A cheque offered in dollars should be declined in favour of cash. British clearing banks will handle the cheque but their system can involve posting it back to America for clearance and waiting for its return before they will open an account.

In some instances they will convert it from dollars to sterling and back again, costing money at every turn. The process can also take up to four weeks.

Banks have two methods of dealing with foreign currency cheques: collection and negotiation. Depending on the sums involved Midland Bank will negotiate a cheque worth up to £3,000, which means they lend the payee money against the cheque until it has cleared so that the funds can be used immediately.

For this service there is a flat fee of £5 for sums up to £500, while over £500 the charge is 0.25 per cent with a minimum of £10 and a maximum of £60. While waiting for the cheque to clear, interest is paid at 4 per cent above the base rate.

Cheques over £3,000 will be collected, which means one cannot draw on the money until it has been cleared in America. The fee for this is 0.25 per cent, minimum £10, maximum £60, plus the cost of posting the cheque backwards and forwards and any charges imposed by the bank's American agents.

A spokesman for National Westminster explained why clearing cheques in America takes such a long time.

"In this country, if you don't hear anything within three days you can assume the cheque is OK. But American banks can return cheques years later if they discover there are not sufficient funds in the account."

Cashing a foreign currency cheque can be even more expensive than opening an account. The cheque is converted to sterling and then back to dollars because the banks do their accounting in sterling. Customers lose money every time the cheque changes denomination.

To convert the cheque straight into dollar travellers' cheques takes several weeks while the funds clear. Midland charges 0.25 per cent plus the 1 per cent commission for travellers' cheques.

To open a foreign currency account in this country requires substantial funds.

Midland will open one for a minimum of £1,000 at a cost of £30 each half-year. But if the balance falls below this, there are additional charges. A

dollar deposit account on seven days notice requires a minimum \$1,500, earning 4.75 per cent.

Barclays, however, will open a dollar account with no minimum, but cheques might not be recognised outside New York. A deposit account needs \$2,500 and earns 5.75 per cent gross.

At NatWest, £1,000 is needed for a dollar deposit account earning interest at the New York prime rate. The bank will open a current account for a minimum £250, but cheques are unlikely to be accepted outside New York or New Jersey.

Lloyds demands a minimum of \$3,500 and interest is negotiable with the branch.

For someone stuck with a dollar cheque, the best plan is to visit the London branch of the issuing bank, if there is one, or cash the cheque on arriving in America.

With an American Express personal cheque the best idea is to exchange it for travellers' cheques, costing 1 per cent.

Robert Webb of Amex said: "We don't take third party cheques. To clear the cheque through the banking system is a lengthy and expensive exercise." Individuals cannot open a cheque account with American Express Bank because it only deals with corporate business.

Mr Webb added: "Provided it is an American Express cheque from the United States, we would honour our own paper and we could sell you a money order instead of travellers' cheques."

For a cheque of about \$500 a money order costs £4 but, unlike travellers' cheques it can only be cashed at American Express offices.

Kenny Niven, head of personal banking at Citibank in Britain, said: "Provided we could authenticate the cheque and get an OK to pay on it from the States you could use the cheque to buy a draft for a flat fee of £15." The draft can be cashed at any Citibank branch in New York for an additional charge. The equivalent cost in London is £10.

To open a Citibank time deposit account the minimum is £25,000. £5,000 for a two-day notice account and £1,500 for an interest-bearing current account opened in association with a deposit account.

Mr Niven explained: "Our business is not high street banking. We are not bankers to the high net worth individual, neither are we bankers to the mass retail market. We cater for the almost wealthy at the top end and the slightly better off than average at the bottom end."

The better option for small sums of money is to use the personal cheque to buy Citibank travellers' cheques at a cost of 1 per cent.

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## Danger of deposits that may never be returned

By MARGARET DIBBEN

TENANTS moving in to one of the many rented properties that are available are expected to hand over hundreds of pounds as a deposit with no guarantee that they will see their money again.

Unlike the protection that investors have through the Financial Services Act, no person acts as stakeholder for the deposit, the money does not have to be kept in a separate account and no interest has to be paid.

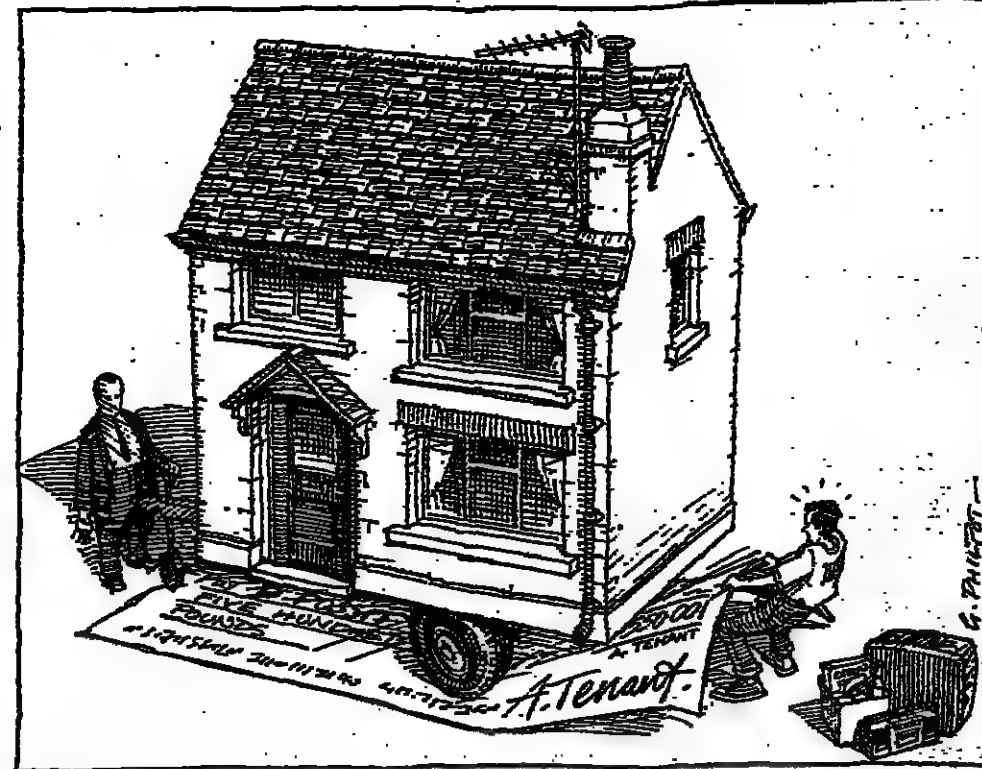
Very often one or two months' rent is payable in advance and in high price areas this can involve more than £1,000 or more without even getting a receipt for the money.

The National Consumer Council (NCC), which has been monitoring rental deposits, is now so concerned at the lack of protection that the council is considering whether it should press for a private member's bill to provide safety for tenants.

A recent NCC survey showed that one in four tenants believed their landlord had unfairly kept the deposit they had paid in advance.

Disputes can arise in various ways: the landlord can claim the deposit was never paid, which is impossible to refute if you have no receipt, or he may not have the money to pay back, either through deliberate fraud or financial difficulties.

A spokeswoman for the NCC said: "There are numerous disputes and cases where



people feel very strongly that the tenant is being ripped off by the landlord. With the increasing amount of property to rent and people moving much more, there will be many more instances of money being paid over in advance."

The NCC report explains that there are virtually no restrictions on charging deposits, premiums or key money.

Landlords do not need to issue receipts or record the physical state of the dwelling. There are no specific requirements on the landlord or agent as to where they put deposits

or what happens with any interest nor any agreed arrangements for refunding deposits. The report concludes: "The system is wide open to abuse by rogue landlords or agents."

The NCC advocates a successful system used in New South Wales, Australia, where money paid in deposit is held in trust by an independent board.

Students are particularly vulnerable to losing deposits because the majority of them rent flats and houses. Paul Fairst, professor of housing law at Hull University, is

about to research this problem.

He said: "Sometimes there is a dispute between the landlord and tenant about whether there has been damage to the furniture etcetera. Certainly in lots of cases there are problems about getting these deposits back. But if a student is leaving the university, it simply isn't worth the hassle of trying to get the money and the landlord gets a kind of windfall gain as a result. Most landlords, of course, behave perfectly properly but it's all too easy for the others to get away with it."

## Landlords' earnings find relief from tax

A GROWING number of people are becoming landlords. Some are buying properties at what they hope will be rock bottom prices in the expectation that the value will rise while a tenant pays the mortgage. Others caught out by the property slump have been unable to sell and are being bailed out by letting.

From the landlord's point of view, the tax implications of renting vary depending on whether it is a holiday home or not.

Andrew Tappin, a partner with BDO Binder Hamlyn, the accountant, explained: "There are several additional income tax and capital gains tax reliefs specifically for holiday lets which aren't available

for other lets. Someone unable to sell their home could rent it out as a holiday let to get the extra tax reliefs, but the house would have to be in an area where the lettings would be of a holiday nature and it would have to be for no more than a month at a time."

Holiday lets must be available for rent for 140 days a year and actually rented out for at least 70 days a year.

"A holiday let is treated as a business, making business profits," said Mr Tappin.

"If you make a loss, you can offset this against your other income such as salary and get immediate tax relief."

With non-holiday lettings, the rules are tougher. The property must be available for

letting throughout the year and actually let for six months. Any loss can be carried forward but it can only be offset against future profits from lettings.

Provided the letting fulfils this time restriction, there is tax relief on the interest on a loan to buy or improve the property. Tax relief is only allowed against income from the rent and not against any other earnings, but there is no £30,000 ceiling on the size of the loan. None of this applies to buying a property overseas to rent out.

With an ordinary let 10 per cent of the rent may usually be claimed for wear and tear. With holiday lets this does not apply and claims must be

made as a percentage of capital expenditure.

Liability for the community charge applies during any time a property is not being rented, at the standard rate which can be twice the personal rate. While there are tenants they must pay. With a holiday let, the uniform business rate will have to be paid instead, which can be deducted from rent before assessing profits.

While capital gains tax is payable when a holiday property is sold, if another one is bought the gain can be deferred. If this continues until the landlord is 60, then they qualify for retirement relief exempting up to £125,000 worth of capital gain.

## Charity warns on grants disarray

By LINDSAY COOK

A WARNING that local authorities are likely to be in disarray over renovation grants introduced at the beginning of July has been given by Age Concern, the charity, in a guide published this week.

The booklet shows how the three types of grants can be of use to retired and disabled people. The schemes, which offer grants of up to 100 per cent of the cost of the work, depend on the income of the applicant, their age and the state of their home.

A single person aged between 60 and 74 with a weekly income of less than £68.50 should get a grant for the full cost of necessary renovation work, and a couple can get a 100 per cent grant with an income of £95.55. Savings up to £5,000 are ignored and then for every £25 an extra £1 is added to their weekly income.

Those who do not qualify for full grants can still get help. The council works out how much the applicant could afford to repay each week on a loan. In this way, someone with £25 above the limit might be regarded as being able to afford £5 a week. This may be thought enough to support a loan of £1,000. If the work comes to more than this a grant for the remainder should be available.

The councils make all the calculations and there is no compulsion to take a loan. It might be that a homeowner faced with £5,000 of repairs and qualifying for a £4,000 grant would use savings or be helped by relatives. To qualify for a loan the home has to be more than ten years old and in need of repair.

Minor work grants of up to £1,000 are available to homeowners on low incomes for small but essential repairs. The property has to be occupied by someone aged over 60. Grants may be given to a relative wanting to adapt their home for an elderly parent. Insulation, draught proofing, and double glazing can sometimes be included.

Disabled facilities grants are to help people live as independently as possible. Social services departments may be able to provide further help.

**An Owner's Guide: Your Home in Retirement** is sponsored by Barclays Bank. It costs £2.50 from Department OG, Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4EL.

## Health plan extended to adults

CHILDSAFE, an accident and hospital plan for children, which was launched in 1987, is growing up. Personal Assurance, an independent insurance company, is extending the plan with a version for adults.

Christopher Johnston, managing director, said: "It is the sort of cover that parents consider essential for their children. Perhaps it's time they looked at it for themselves."

The company, which specialises in health and accident cover and is based in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, will pay benefits of £50,000 for permanent total disablement and major injuries, for £1,400 a week. Less serious injuries are covered on a sliding scale.

## Taxation guide

An updated guide to separate taxation for husbands and wives is published by Henderson Crosthwaite, the private client stockbroker. It includes a table showing who should choose accounts paying gross interest and a guide to switching ownership of shares to minimise tax liability.

## Blue chip rate

Deposits over £2,500 will receive 15 per cent gross interest in Girobank's one-year Blue Chip Bond maturing on July 31, 1991. The rate is guaranteed to the end of 1990 and will be at least 7 per cent above the bank's standard deposit account gross interest after that.

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£15,000	11.70	15.60	9.94	16.58
£25,000	11.75	15.67	9.99	16.65
£50,000	11.80	15.73	10.03	16.72
£100,000	11.90	15.87	10.12	16.86
£250,000 (max)	12.00	16.00	10.20	17.00

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A copy of the Bond wording and your completed application form is available from the address above.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone no. (day) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Name in full \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

TS

Bank name \_\_\_\_\_

Bank sort code \_\_\_\_\_

Bank account number \_\_\_\_\_

Declaration: I/we declare that a) I/we am/are over 18 years of age b) I/we am/are resident in the United Kingdom.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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WEEKEND MONEY

LETTERS

Insurance  
omission

From G.M. Cooper  
Sir, In view of the ever increasing popularity of adventure holidays, such as safaris, other mobile organised holidays and those to more remote locations likely to lack facilities, I would draw attention to a possibly expensive omission in some travel insurance policies, even those issued by large and apparently reputable companies.

Should a requirement for medical attention arise involving hospital out-patient treatment and possibly a hotel stop over, it may well be found that whilst transportation to hospital and medical treatment is covered, hotel expenses and the cost of return to the holiday location is not. This is not highlighted in exclusion clauses and is justified on the basis of omission in the cover, something the majority of people would miss. It seems that financially you are better off dead or at least seriously ill when all expenses are paid to ship you home.

It is not so much a case of reading the small print as the blank spaces, as I found to my cost of £360.

Yours faithfully,  
G.M. COOPER,  
9 St Malo Close,  
Ferring, Worthing,  
West Sussex

From Mr Peter K. Ayles  
Sir, Following on from recent correspondence on direct debits, I recently completed an application form from Welsh Water which offered £10 from my next bill if I agreed to pay by direct debit.

Their reply rejected my application as "we cannot apply direct debits on metered accounts".

One day, perhaps, they will leap into the 20th century.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER K. AYLES,  
112 Llanrwst Road,  
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Clwyd.

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Portfolio  
PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 43).

Share	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	+6	+7	+5	+3	+5	
2	+4	+4	+3	+3	+1	
3	+5	+4	+6	+3	+5	
4	+7	+6	+4	+2	+5	
5	+4	+5	+5	+3	+4	
6	+6	+6	+3	+2	+3	
7	+5	+8	+7	+4	+2	
8	+8	+5	+5	+2	+5	
9	+5	+4	+4	+5	+3	
10	+4	+7	+9	+4	+3	
11	+3	+8	+7	+6	+3	
12	+4	+3	+5	+5	+3	
13	+3	+8	+8	+5	+3	
14	+6	+6	+4	+3	+3	
15	+7	+4	+5	+4	+4	
16	+3	+3	+5	+3	+4	
17	+7	+5	+6	+4	+5	
18	+4	+5	+4	+5	+4	
19	+5	+8	+4	+3	+2	
20	+6	+4	+6	+2	+7	
21	+5	+3	+5	+4	+3	
22	+4	+4	+5	+1	+2	
23	+4	+7	+8	+6	+2	
24	+5	+4	+3	+1	+1	
25	+8	+4	+4	+3	+6	
26	+3	+4	+8	+3	+6	
27	+3	+8	+8	+5	+1	
28	+4	+4	+5	+2	+1	
29	+6	+4	+5	+3	+4	
30	+6	+6	+4	+2	+2	
31	+3	+5	+4	+3	+5	
32	+5	+5	+3	+2	+1	
33	+3	+6	+7	+4	+1	
34	+7	+5	+5	+3	+4	
35	+8	+5	+6	+3	+5	
36	+6	+8	+7	+4	+2	
37	+4	+5	+4	+1	+2	
38	+4	+7	+8	+5	+1	
39	+4	+4	+5	+3	+3	
40	+5	+6	+7	+5	+2	
41	+6	+4	+5	+4	+5	
42	+3	+4	+5	+4	+3	
43	+4	+6	+9	+7	+1	
44	+6	+5	+5	+1	+3	

He looks like  
he's just had  
a bill for the  
auction costs.



The costs of going to auction

From Mr Warwick Blench  
Sir, In assessing the "hidden costs" of selling works of art at auction (Weekend Money, July 7) Ruth Corb falls short of a full exposé.

In deciding whether to sell an item through either a dealer or auctioneer the following should be remembered.

The auction house's total charge of nearly one third (buyer's premium, seller's commission, insurance and value added tax) is based on the wholesale value of the item. A similar charge levied by a dealer would normally be based on a much higher retail valuation assuming insufficient merit in the object.

The auction house will also be unlikely to guarantee that an item will sell, and in the event that it remains unsold is

entitled to charge "unsold commission", usually a percentage of the reserve, and will also charge for any catalogue illustration, which can easily run to over a hundred pounds.

Additionally, the period of time between one's sending the item to auction, its inclusion in a suitable sale, the sale itself and one's receipt of the funds will often result in a wait of many months.

In theory, at least, if not always in practice, a dealer may "place" your work of art the same day.

Yours faithfully,  
WARWICK J.R. BLENCH,  
Selective Eye Gallery,  
30 Don Street,  
St Helier,  
Jersey,  
Channel Islands.

Keeping control with standing orders

From Mr Frank Grenfell  
Sir, Correspondence about the direct debit system over the past few weeks has missed the main point: that it gives authority over one's bank account to another.

If an individual to whom I might in the future owe money suggested that he should help himself to unspecified amounts from my account at will, he would receive a short and sharp reply. Why should large organisations be

treated any differently? Direct debits are simple and convenient. Like anything else they can, and occasionally do, go wrong. I object to them on principle, and now insist that any regular payment from my account should be made by standing order, under my control.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANK GRENFELL,  
1 Broadbent House,  
Willowbrook, Eton,  
Windsor, Berks

Probing the mysteries of Gann

From Mr John T. Hayes  
Sir, With reference to the article "Investment diviners probe Mysteries of the Market" (Weekend Money, June 23), in which the Gann system is briefly mentioned, can you recommend further reading on the Gann system?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN T. HAYES,  
9 Bryn-y-Mor,  
Mathry,  
Haverfordwest,  
Dyfed.

● William Gann wrote a number of books but they are all rather heavy going. You may like to obtain a copy of 45 years on Wall Street (the book that originally sparked off Fred Stauford's interest in the subject). Alternatively, the Gann analysis techniques are explained in the free seminars hosted by Investment Data Services Ltd.

Details are available from Gillian King. Telephone: 061-431-9559.

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in free credit

From Mrs A. Keith  
Sir, What I object to and come across increasingly often is the notice in shops: "0 per cent interest, 9 (or 10 or X) months to pay".

I recently bought a vacuum cleaner. The shop offered me several months' "free credit". I refused, having never bought anything on hire purchase. Then I was told that there was no reduction for cash payment; the price advertised was the price, even if one did not want the facility of payment.

Very reluctantly, I bought the cleaner because it was the make and the model that I wanted. However, I left the shop feeling cheated and I do feel that 0 per cent interest should be made illegal or that cash payments should be made compulsorily cheaper.

Yours faithfully,  
A. KEITH,  
14 South Canterbury Road,  
Canterbury,  
Kent,  
July 7.

Inflation relief would encourage savers

From H. Nixon  
Sir, It is reported that the Chancellor of the Exchequer wishes to encourage the UK population to increase its personal savings rate.

One suggestion to achieve this should be adopted by the Inland Revenue as soon as possible; it is to grant inflation relief (as is done for capital gains tax) to interest paid by banks and building societies to personal savers.

For example, bank or building society rate of interest 15 per cent gross, inflation rate 8 per cent, income tax due on 15 minus eight = 7 per cent.

Such an additional tax allowance would give encouragement to savers and also give some compensation for the recent announcement of a

3 per cent increase in tax on bank and building society interest now that the consolidated tax arrangement is to be abolished.

To avoid additional work by the Inland Revenue, the banks and building societies should be responsible for making any calculations based on an Inland Revenue promulgation of the inflation rate for the tax year in question.

Yours faithfully,  
H. NIXON,  
41 Broadfields,  
East Molesey.

● Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns.

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## WEEKEND MONEY

Junk mail is getting trashier. Complaints to the Data Protection Registrar about unsolicited mail from companies have tripled in a year.

Electoral registers are the main source of names and addresses for junk mailers. They are available to any company as of right.

Shareholder lists are also raided without warning. Some Thames Water shareholders have received an offer from investment group MIM Britannia. The shareholders have been led to believe they have two options: either pay the second instalment or hand over their shares to MIM to be swapped for a personal equity plan.

MIM neglects to tell shareholders that if they accept the offer, they lose the loyalty bonus or discount on the water shares. Thames Water has made a formal complaint to the relevant watchdog, but that does not alter the fact that many shareholders may be confused by the offer, as they decide whether to pay the second instalment by July 31.

Many of the recipients of the MIM letter were young. In two

families of Thames shareholders it was the teenage children who received the offer, not the parents.

MIM said it was not targeting the young and inexperienced but those who had not already bought personal equity plans this year. Its mailing house eliminated almost a quarter of the shareholders on these grounds.

By yesterday morning it had received 1,000 calls from interested shareholders but could not say how many had converted into sales.

The group obtained the list of Thames shareholders from the water company's registrars and can use any other register that it chooses, without the permission or knowledge of the company concerned.

The privatisations and other popular flotations such as Abbey National have increased the scope for junk mailers. Charities decided they should share in the good fortune of Abbey members,



## COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

to whom it gave 100 free shares, trying emotional blackmail to persuade shareholders to hand part or all of the shares over.

A growing number of people are taking positive action to stop unwanted offers. Since the Mailing Preference Service was set up in 1983, 430,000 people have chosen to have their names removed from the lists of companies.

It usually takes two to three months from applying for junk-free post until all the companies have managed to put a stop to unsolicited offers.

Anyone wanting to be removed from the mailing lists of companies selling everything from timeshare to Christmas cakes should write to the service

at Freepost 22, London W1E 7EZ.

The organisation needs the surname and initials of each person who wishes to be removed.

## Short lived

Investors attracted by the rates offered by the Walthamstow building society in its advertisement this week for its 90-day notice account ought to be aware that the account should not be in existence for much longer than the notice period.

On July 31 members of the London-based society will be asked to vote on its proposed merger with the Cheltenham &

Gloucester building society and there is no reason to believe that it will not gain a whopping 90 per cent-plus majority to do so. The two societies are scheduled to merge on October 31. This gives investors, who responded immediately to Wednesday's advertisement and rushed £40,000 to one of its 11 branches, just 106 days to enjoy the 12.45 per cent offered.

At the end of October it is planned to scrap the 90-day account and transfer its customers to the C&G's instant access Gold account paying 11 per cent on such sums. The C&G does not have a 90-day account.

The largest print in the advertisement is the gross interest rate of 16.6 per cent. Technically savers who opened an account this week could, if the merger goes ahead, receive interest in July next year. If they were non-taxpayers this could then be paid gross. Few people with £40,000 available now will

be non-taxpayers and those who close their accounts in November to seek a better return will definitely not obtain 16.6 per cent, as the interest will be paid after tax has been deducted.

At the C&G a spokeswoman said that the Walthamstow could not assume that its members would vote for the merger to go ahead. The Walthamstow and C&G have to continue to trade as individual societies and to advertise their products until the matter was voted on. That was likely to mean further advertisements for the 90-day account next week when the merger is 99 days away.

Investors will be free to withdraw instantly their money in November, or late October if they give notice now. They may still feel they have been misled by the advertisements.

Those who decide to stay with the C&G will mostly be better off asking for an immediate transfer out of the Gold account into the London share account which is operated by post. This pays 12.25 per cent on sums over £2,500. But they will need to know about it.

## Investors face loss of funds after court bans tied agent

By JON ASHWORTH

INVESTORS who dealt with Peter Owen-Jackson, the former tied agent who had his assets frozen in the High Court last week, may not be eligible for any compensation if they are unable to realise their funds.

Mr Owen-Jackson was not authorised to conduct investment business under the Financial Services Act and his clients will not be covered by the Investors Compensation Scheme. This pays up to £48,000 to individual investors following the collapse of a regulated firm.

It is not yet clear how many investors he dealt with or how much money may be at stake. The Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the markets watchdog, which obtained two injunctions this week against Mr Owen-Jackson and Kentasot, his company, has launched an investigation into the affair and has appealed to investors to get in touch.

The injunctions require Mr Owen-Jackson and Kentasot to cease investment business, to disclose all assets in Britain and abroad, and not to deal in or dispose of any assets.

Mr Owen-Jackson began trading as an independent broker under the name Financial Planning Services in 1981, and dealt on a regular basis with Albany Life. He became a tied agent of Albany Life in September 1988, but the contract was ended a year later.

Mr Owen-Jackson may have been tied to another life

assurance company before working exclusively for Albany Life, but this could not be confirmed this week.

In a separate development, SIB has obtained similar injunctions against Randhir Singh, a former tied agent of Albany Life. The orders restrain Mr Singh from conducting investment business and from making misleading statements. He was not authorised to give investment advice.

The outlook for investors who expect some form of protection from either the government or financial legislation, appears bleaker than ever. Insurance companies are free to sign up anyone off the street as tied agents, regardless of whether they have been authorised previously or not.

All the company has to do is satisfy itself that the person is "fit and proper" to give investment advice. A string of cases this year appear to show that the system of financial regulation, set up to protect

criticised last year for failing to make proper checks, after the collapse of Homes Asured, a tied agent, which sold endowment policies to council tenants. Full checks would have revealed that two directors and one former director had been involved with at least five companies already in liquidation.

Checks made by Lauto last year found that a "regrettably large" number of its members were not up to the required standard.

Mr Kit Jebens, the chief executive, has said that a significant number of members had not been doing their job as thoroughly as expected.

In January, Lauto ordered the National Financial Management Corporation, a subsidiary of Target, to carry out an audit of all its tied agents. They included Garston Amhurst, which had collapsed. Investors went on to press TSB, the owner of Target at the time, to pay compensation. This it has agreed to do.

In April SIB announced it was investigating the affairs of Anthony Weldon Tubbs, a former solicitor who was employed as a tied agent by Allied Dunbar, even though he had been struck off in 1971 for using clients' money.

Mr Tubbs was subsequently arrested, and the 20 creditors have had little hint of any compensation.

Allied Dunbar, which said it had taken up several references from Mr Tubbs, said it would consider any claims sympathetically.

## Watchdog looks closer into investment that never was

By OUR MONEY EDITOR

WHEN is an investment not an investment? That is the conundrum a company from Reading is posing to anyone with £250,000 to spare.

The Castlegate Group claims it gives a "20 per cent per annum no-risk return" by using investors' money to set up companies offering fixed rate mortgages at 23.2 per cent — about 7 per cent above the standard mortgage rate.

Roy Wharton, group chairman of the Reading-based company, says the Capital Fund Owners Plan does not need to be regulated by the Financial Services Act because it is not regarded as an investment.

At the Securities and Investments Board, the body that oversees the act, which came into force in 1988, a spokeswoman said that Castlegate was not authorised by any of the regulatory organisations.

But SIB was looking further into the details of the scheme, she said.

The trade and industry department confirmed that if a firm was selling an entire company it was exempt from the provisions of the Financial Services Act.

As it is not regulated, investors' money is not protected by the Investors Compensation Scheme, which could pay out up to £48,000 in the event of failure.

The money provided by quarter-millionaires becomes the working capital of limited companies that lend money in the form of mortgage advances. The glossy brochure does not make it clear that few of these loans are first loans on properties.

Mr Wharton said that most of the loans were second and third mortgages secured on domestic properties. Others are first mortgages to small building firms converting houses into flats.

The companies set up by Castlegate are owned and controlled by the investors, but Castlegate undertakes the administration and the management. It applies for consumer credit licences for the companies, vets the borrowers, processes the loans and collects the payments.

The money is loaned on ten-year, fixed-rate terms with the company always charging an annual percentage rate of 23.2 per cent or more for its loans. The brochure for the fund owners plan carries the legend "high return with security". It states that "in accordance with the Consumer Credit Act of 1974, the lending company will apply for a licence to the trade department in order to carry on the business of lending monies to individuals".

In fact, it is the Office of Fair Trading that handles such licence applications. The trade department has no record of Castlegate Securities, part of the group.



Castlegate's headquarters in London Street, Reading.

The OFT confirmed that Castlegate is licensed to operate consumer credit, consumer hire, credit brokerage, debt adjusting and counselling, and debt collecting businesses.

Mr Wharton said that he had never had a consumer credit licence application for one of the lending companies turned down, although he had refused to make applications for one or two people he thought were not suitable.

The cost of a licence is £400 and applicants have to fill out a seven-page form giving details of anyone who can influence or direct the way the business is run.

County court judgments and any convictions for fraud, dishonesty or violence must be listed, as must details of bankruptcies.

The OFT spokesman said it usually took eight weeks for applications to be processed. Companies cannot undertake

credit business before a licence is granted.

Mr Wharton said that Castlegate Group had been formed as a brokerage in 1969 and the first lending company was formed in 1972.

Records at Companies House show that Castlegate Securities was incorporated in March 1988 and operated as Loribell until July of that year.

Mr Wharton said there was no long-term commitment needed from investors, even though the money was lent at a fixed mortgage rate over ten years. If a person needed their investment back the loans would be sold to another company.

The brochure states: "Over the past eight years, for personal reasons, three company owners have decided to withdraw their funds. In every case we have been able to sell the mortgages at their full current value to other companies."

Mr Wharton said that bor-

rowers paid from 1.75 per cent a month in interest and that Castlegate took 0.25 per cent as its management fee. Third mortgages were more expensive.

The interest rate never fell below 1.75 per cent even when bank base rates were half the current level, he added.

"If interest rates dropped dramatically we might change the basis on which we lend but would not reduce the rates."

But Mr Wharton denied that loans were risky and were made to people who could not borrow from conventional places such as banks and building societies.

"We have run this business for almost 20 years. Nobody has ever lost any money. We have been through ups and downs in interest rates and in property values, and we have kept the thing under control."

"And if there has been any problem, you know with a shortfall in a mortgage — I must say we don't have very many of them — Castlegate has met the difference so no lender has lost any money."

Mr Wharton said there was "absolutely no risk" but he said there was no insurance to ensure compensation for investors.

He then qualified his no risk statement, adding: "I must say to you in honesty, all terms are relative aren't they?"

Castlegate would have to find the funds if a loan turned sour, but he emphasised it would do so.

Larger and more experienced lenders, such as the Halifax and the Nationwide Anglia building societies, have made larger provisions against both domestic and commercial debts this year.

Typically, someone with £250,000 would make 12 or 13 loans at £20,000, said Mr Wharton. Before any mortgages were granted Castlegate visited the applicants in their homes.

The majority of borrowers are from the Reading area and applied for loans from advertisements in Yellow Pages and Thompson directories.

Mr Wharton said that the individual lending companies had the charge on the properties. He had been a director of the 60 lending companies but had decided it was not "fitting" and had resigned.

The company owner was now the only person who could sign for the charge on a property to be released.

The brochure also says it "should be recognised by principals that, as sole proprietors of limited companies, they have all the rights as well as the obligations in law that this implies."

Asked if he was a director of any other company, Mr Wharton replied: "Before I say no I just want to think to myself — nothing that is currently of any importance. I was a partner in a ladies fashion shop, no, not really, my whole business life is Castlegate."

"Prompt return of funds is not just for our benefit."

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## Employers face stiff penalties for failing to complete staff tax details by deadline

By RODNEY HOBSON

HOUSEHOLDERS who employ a nanny or housekeeper are among employers who face stiff penalties if they fail to fill in Pay As You Earn tax forms for the past financial year to April 5.

Under a tougher policy announced in the 1989 Budget, the returns must be in by August 19.

In a bid to stamp out late tax payments and the administrative problems they cause, the deadline will be brought

forward each year to reach May 19 by 1995. Employers earning more than the single person's tax allowance, currently standing at £3,005, are liable to pay tax. That means a form should be completed for anyone earning £58 a week or more.

If the Inland Revenue sends a form for someone earning less than that amount, it must still be completed and submitted.

A spokesman explained: "The employee could have

another job and we need to know about that person's total earnings."

Employers paying more than £58 a week who do not receive a form from the Inland Revenue are under an obligation to obtain one from their local tax office, which is listed in the telephone directory under Inland Revenue.

The tax office also has leaflet-IR53, which opens out as a wall chart explaining how to fill in the employer's returns.

Penalties introduced this

year for late payment are up to £1,200 for employers with up to 50 employees. There are additional penalties for long delays.

The Inland Revenue spokesman said: "There have been some problems with forms being submitted late. If an employer wants to claim a tax rebate and the tax office does not know how much tax has been paid the case cannot be dealt with."

"Prompt return of forms is not just for our benefit."

مكتبة التخلي



# A complex character at the heart of Wembley

By CAROL LEONARD

## BUSINESS PROFILE

Sir Brian Wolfson

SIR Brian Wolfson, the man behind Wembley, Britain's national stadium, is a workaholic who knows of only two ways to relax. "One is to read," he says. "The other is to make love." But he is usually too busy to do either.

Wolfson has other more pressing concerns on his mind. Instilled, at an early age, with his father's fighting spirit, he is not the sort of man to take the City's valuation of his stadium, arena and greyhound racing group, lying down. "My father had a very simple motto in life: no surrender," Wolfson recalls. "What he meant was that in any situation, no matter how difficult, you kept going until you had won. It left its stamp on me." Capitalised at £76 million and on a price earnings ratio of a little over 11 times earnings, Wembley is, he believes, far too cheap.

Like Richard Branson and Andrew Lloyd Webber before him, he would now like to take the company back into private hands. "If interest rates were not what they are, we would do it tomorrow," he says. "Finding the money is no problem, the problem is funding the cash flow at 16 per cent. We can't do it." But if rates were to come down he would do it in a flash. "We have looked at it quite seriously, I could even give you the numbers, but it wouldn't make you feel any better."

He was speaking from his office in the dank and dingy administration building at the heart of Wembley's 80-acre site. Fumes from lorries in the car park below, unloading equipment for a concert that night, filled the air.

His daily working environment contrasts starkly with the leather-seated luxury of the executive boxes and restaurants he had built along one side of the stadium two years ago. They are on a par with a five star hotel. More than £50 million has been spent on refurbishment and structural improvements. A further £25 million has yet to be spent.

"These boxes are better than any you'll find anywhere else in the world," he says proudly. "We spend a fortune maintaining them."

But there is no sign that any of that money has been used for Wolfson's own comfort. That would not be among his priorities. And that says a lot about the man.

Wolfson, aged 54, and knighted in the Queen's birthday honours last month, was first hailed as a whiz-kid by the national press 20 years ago, when he became joint group managing director of Granada Group at the age of 32.

He now manages to hold down the equivalent of three jobs. Each of them would be a full-time post for any normal person.

Previous chairmen of the Manpower Services Commission, each one of them able men, did it on a full-time basis. Wolfson now holds the equivalent position, in the government's renamed National Training Task Force, and manages to fit it in around a seven-days-a-week commitment to Wembley.

In his spare time he continues to oversee a diverse array of private interests spanning the worlds of shipping and property.

"I've always had a lot of energy," Wolfson says. He was a 400 metres running champion at the age of 15. "I can get

by on four or five hours sleep a night. I can sleep anywhere. Even here on the office floor. But every so often I go away completely and sleep for perhaps 12 hours in one go."

But for someone so hyperactive, he seems surprisingly at ease. He makes everyone he speaks to feel as if he has all the time in the world — even though he hasn't.

He is the sort of man you can imagine meditating in his rare moments alone in his Regents Park home. But the most he will admit to is a penchant for herbal tea. Camomile, long recommended by herbalists for its sleep inducing qualities, is his favourite. But contrary to traditional prescription, he drinks it morning, noon and night. "You're supposed to drink it before you go to bed. I drink it all the time, to slow me down," Wolfson says.

Not seen at his best in group gatherings, he is definitely a one-to-one man. When he speaks, in a more intimate environment, his potential can be seen. Ideas and concepts tumble forth with the speed with which a mechanical device might shell peas from a pod.

Wolfson pushes himself to the limit. "I go to virtually every event at Wembley. It's a seven-days-a-week, 24 hours-a-day job. You can't run this business without attending what goes on. It has to become part of your life. It's such a vast machine and there is no motivation like the footsteps of the master."

His day begins before 8am and invariably ends with a football match, race meeting or pop concert in the evening. But this pop culture isn't as alien as most people would assume. He grew up with

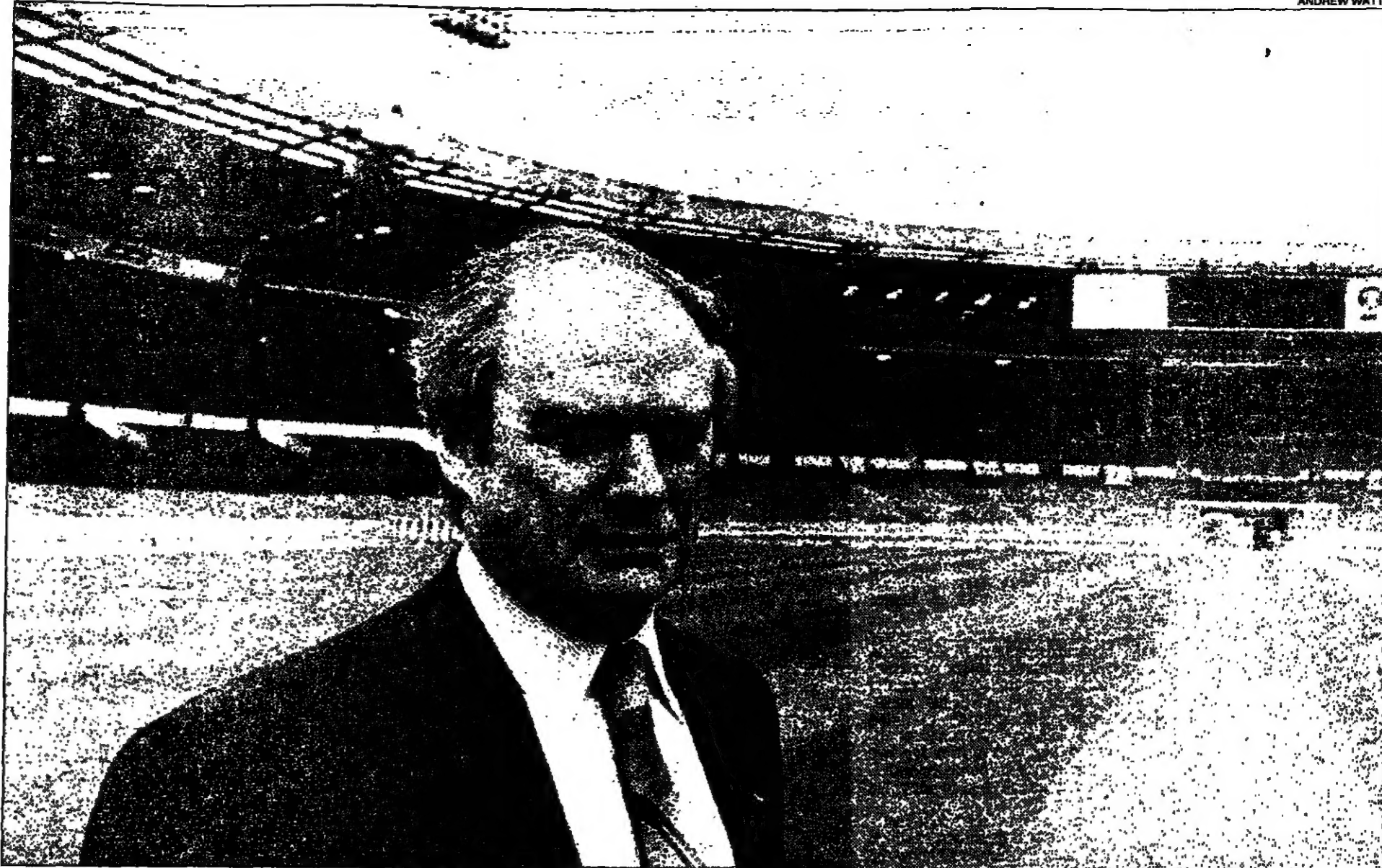
**"I'm a very physical person. I always try to get inside someone's head. I can usually work out what makes someone tick within minutes of meeting them"**

Brian Epstein, the Beatles' manager, and Alan Sytner, who ran the Cavern in Liverpool. "I went on holiday with Alan to Paris one year, and that's where he got the idea for the Cavern. He came back and opened it up."

Being chairman of Wembley is, he says, a very sociable job. He enjoys it enormously. "It has to be fun," he adds.

But the guests he entertains in the company's private boxes, influential though they may be, and almost always uttering superficial gratitude for their free tickets, seldom take the trouble to get to know him. "They probably see me as quite forceful, quite sharp, a very direct manager," he admits. "But not much more than that." He is, in fact, a complex man.

Wolfson, one suspects, is far more at ease with his own employees. Relationships there are less pretentious. As he rushes around the stadium at night — "It's half a mile around the top rim," he says — he looks more like a security man than the chairman of the company. His staff find him approachable, are mostly on first name terms and are fiercely loyal. He has had the



Too busy to relax: Sir Brian Wolfson, the workaholic head of Wembley, holds down the equivalent to three jobs, each enough to keep a less active man fully employed

same secretary for more than 20 years. As befis the man who leads the government's retraining programme for the long-term unemployed, and is also on the board of Wharton, the American business school, he has strong views on management.

"A manager should be someone who tells you what they are going to do and then goes away and does it. Not someone who tells you about

tion, his ongoing dissatisfaction with the City stems from confusion about the very nature of Wembley's business.

"It's really a property company," says one analyst. Wolfson would disagree. "No one really knows anything about his strategy," says another. Yet Wolfson is only too eager to end such ignorance.

"We are a leisure company, with three core businesses. Sports and entertainment, exhibitions and conferences and services to the leisure industry, which threads through the whole thing."

As for future strategy, each of the company's three facets has, he says, room for expansion.

The Wembley complex is still being developed. Building work to double its exhibition space should be completed before the end of the year. In the autumn, work will begin on a leisure centre with a bingo hall, multiplex cinema, bowling alley and discotheque.

He is adamant that the company will not diversify "from what it does best — we are very brutal about sticking to what we know."

As for the property element, it is, he says, "a brutal discipline of alternate value", which supports the business.

"If a site can't work as a race track, can it be a hypermarket or something else? But it is not property in the normal sense. We look at it as underpinning an earnings performance, not as an end in itself. And we are unique as a leisure company in always showing our property profits as extraordinary. We do not put them in our normal earnings," Wolfson

learnt his business principles at an early age. His father's death at the age of 44, meant that he forsook an earlier ambition to take a law degree in order to salvage the family business, a motor distributorship in Liverpool.

That business went bust. "Facing a roomful of angry creditors when you are 17 tends to leave a lasting impression," he says.

His mother's death ten years later left Wolfson alone in the world and although he says he is not a religious man, he admits that he found the traditional mourning process associated with his Jewish

faith "a great comfort". He returns to the synagogue of his childhood, in Liverpool, once or twice a year.

"It's more of a social thing for me really, a chance to meet up with old friends."

True to his roots, he also remains an ardent supporter of Liverpool Football Club. But for a man so closely associated with the present government, through his involvement with the Department of Employment, it is surprising to hear him describe himself as apolitical. "If anything, I'm left of centre," he says, when pushed.

"For many years I voted Liberal in the hope that they would eventually get somewhere."

Separated from his wife, but with two adult children on whom he dotes, he is reluctant to discuss his private life further. "I'm a very private man."

And a difficult man to get to know. But those who make the effort are likely to remain friends for life.

One associate, who once found himself in need, says: "He is the sort of man who turns out to be your friend when you need a friend most."

Momentarily away from it all, in a corner of his own box, and just as Mick Jagger strutted on to the stage below, I

pressed him once again about the "private man" he claimed to be. "I'm a very physical person. I always try to get inside someone's head. I can usually work out what makes someone tick within minutes of meeting them." It's a game he plays constantly.

Forced to contemplate the workings of his mind, he quotes Professor Roland Smith, whom he describes as "a close personal friend".

"He always says that he should have been the businessman and that I should have been the academic."

Anyone else who knows Wolfson well would, of course, agree.

## PROFIT FROM THE NEW EUROPE

# EUROPE.

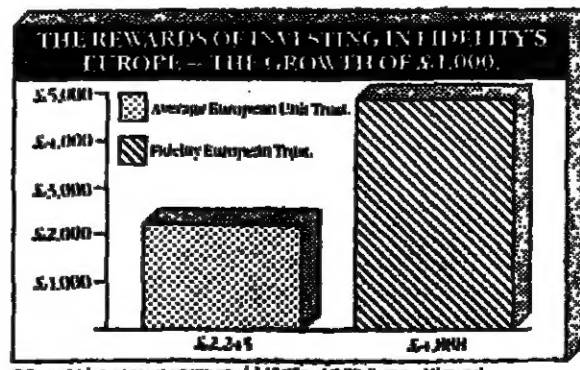
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## Poetic justice of property slump

TOM WOLFE's fable of New York in the Eighties, *Bonfire of the Vanities*, tells how Sherman McCoy, the hero, is flung out of his Park Avenue flat. When the bond trader suffered scandal, his co-op board simply evicted him. In these chastened days, the board would not throw him out. Instead, it would probably agonise over his ability to keep up the maintenance fees.

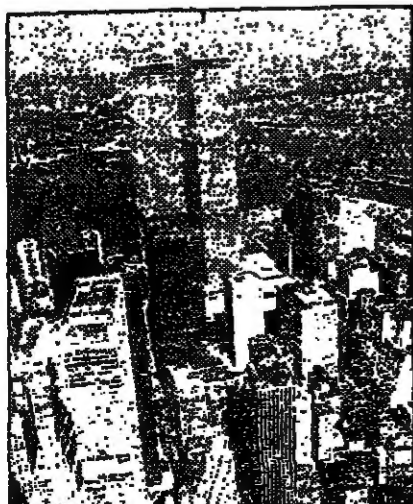
Northeastern America, like Britain, is suffering a property slump. The crunch is hitting New York and the hardest hit are the owners of co-operative apartments, that object of yuppie desire which proliferated in the past decade. Co-ops were devised in gentler days to give flat owners greater control than in condominiums. With the condo you just own your flat. Any riff-raff can move in down the corridor. With the co-op, you are a shareholder in the company that owns the building. To buy a co-op you have to pass an interview with the board of owners.

There are many reasons for the property crisis and poetic justice is, undoubtedly, one of them. Nowhere did people make such a killing in real estate as they did in Manhattan in the Eighties — not just the Donald Trumps of this world, but many of the ambitious middle class. New York had always been a city of renters. Much of the bourgeoisie still pay rents about level with a British council house. For example, Edward Koch, the last mayor, has lived for years in a comfortable, controlled Greenwich Village apartment.

The picture changed with the Wall Street bonanza and property tax abatements bestowed to cure the fiscal crisis of the Seventies. By 1987, Manhattan flat

## CAPITAL CITY

CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK



High-cost high-rises in Manhattan

prices had leapt 500 per cent, driven by the space shortage and the gospel of the leveraged lifestyle. People would queue to get first crack at lofts and windowless "shoe-boxes".

A million dollars became the starting price for relatively humble dwellings on the upper East Side and estate agents

were making more than brain surgeons. As developers scrambled to build high-rise flats, many took advantage of Seventies laws and made fortunes converting rental buildings with sitting tenants into co-ops. Only 15 per cent of the flats had to be sold. The building owner, or sponsor, shouldered the burden of tenants who refused to buy their flats, but that was fine as long as the Wall Street band played on.

About six months after the 1987 crash, the music stopped and the city lost some 60,000 jobs in the financial industry. Prices have now fallen about 30 per cent, leaving thousands of owners grappling with the notion that they owe the bank more than their home is worth.

Some 200 of the development companies that sponsored co-ops have declared difficulty or defaulted in their share of the financing of co-op conversions, a move that portends possible ruin for flatowners. As shareholders, they inherit the sponsors' debts on the building and share of the often formidable monthly maintenance charges.

At Manhattan dinner parties the talk used to be about high ceilings and walk-in closets, prized items in a space-starved city. Now jittery flatholders reassure each other like people awaiting the next wave of enemy bombers. "Things can't keep going down," they say. "People will always want to live here."

Some think New York should at least try to shore up morale with a version of a scheme just applied in the suburb of Rockville, Long Island. The town council there was concerned by the plethora of "for sale" signs on every street so it put a \$60 tax on them and banned all but the smallest signs.



## Returns of 20% promised

## Wolf clothing



## Fly-drive

## Property rush

## Wireless tone

## Loans race

## Your Views



## High stakes

## Rule changes

Meanwhile two unauthorised investment advisers, who are both former tied agents, have raised new fears about financial regulation. **Page 50**

## BY WILLIAM GREAVES

On the other end of the telephone lines were about 50,000 customers who were similarly not prepared to observe the strictures of banking's traditional hours. Mike Harris, the bank's chief executive, is cagey on figures. He said that customers who wake up

Mark Cromack, one of the call centre's co-ordinators, kept watch on his monitor. Incoming calls are routed automatically to a free

By the time of the second call from Berlin, Pam Simpson and her husband, Gordon, were nearing the end of a wearisome 400-mile car journey from the south coast to Edinburgh at the start of their holiday.

**'At 10.30pm, a man from Hertfordshire phoned to say he had some shares to sell and wanted to know the current prices. Three quarters of an hour later, a man in Berlin wanted his Visa card limit increased'**

My husband is a long-distance lorry driver and is often away for anything up to two weeks," she said. "It's the evenings when you tend to feel lonely and this job is a wonderful way of getting through them. People are so friendly. I've just had a man on who said he wanted to check his balance before

Several hours later — at 6.20am — a 27-year-old company director from Suffolk came on the line, sounding decidedly agitated.

"My wife left me two or three weeks ago," he said later, "and when I woke up I suddenly realised that she had access to everything I had in the bank. It brought me up with quite a jolt, but fortunately everything is all right."

The calls were then coming in thick and fast.

As a hazy dawn gave way to bright sunshine and in three hours Britain's clearing banks would be open for business, Karen McKenzie left for home. "My dog will be ready for a good walk when I get back," she said, "so it will probably be after lunch before I get to bed."

**By LINDSAY COOK**  
MONEY EDITOR

It estimated that telephone banking would have full market penetration in five to seven years.

Voice recognition systems can provide the same services. Clydesdale Bank, Girobank and National Westminster Bank are among the providers of voice recognition telephone banking. Lloyds also offered this system in its experiment involving 1,000 customers.

**Telephone link: Ray Murphy checks on his account**

At TSB there is a £2.50 a quarter charge for the Speedlink service, which allows customers to pay up to 31 regular bills automatically. Available 24 hours a day all year round for personal and business customers, it can be accessed from telephones at home, in the office and from pay phones in this country and abroad.

Ray Murphy at TSB said the most regular requests were for a list of the last half dozen transactions made and calls to find out NatWest's ActionLine costs £3.50 a quarter. The service is available at any time except between 2am and 4am.

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